

The MOROKS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

The Monrovia Rockhounds founded 1957

Volume 60, Issue 3

Upcoming Meetings

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

General Meeting, MARCH 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. Guest are always
welcome.

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

The February meeting presented all of us with a very nice surprise. Two new members have volunteered to be Secretary & Representative. Geoff agreed to be President. We now have a complete slate of officers. I no longer have to look up laws and regulations to dissolving the club or merging with another club. That gives us all another year to interest people in joining us. Our Show is probably the best opportunity we have to meet people who are interested.

I will do my best, as VP next year to get interesting programs. I am currently thinking of alternating speakers and 'hands on projects'. If a member has any ideas, don't be shy about sharing them.

The 2017 Show will be March 4-5, 2017. This will give us an opportunity so promote our club and go shopping. I like seeing what everyone has.

Jo Anna Ritchey, President

Attention To the Membership

**The Monrovia Rockhounds Annual Show is
March 4th & 5th, 2017.**

**We will be needing volunteers to fill in and
help with the show, if you have time
please contact one of your officers.**

**We will also be needing some donations of
soft drinks, water or juices for members &
venders to drink. The club will be
furnishing sandwich boxes from Vons
Pavilions deli each day.**

We hope to see you at the Arboretum

Thank You

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2017 Board Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds

The February 7, 2017 Board Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds was called to order at 2:05PM at the Ritchey's home in Monrovia.

Officers present:

Jo Anna Ritchey---President

Colleen Chestnut---Secretary

Jim Lloyd---Treasurer by conference telephone call

Jo Anna stated at the February 16, General Meeting that Jim Brace- Thompson will speak on collecting agates in Scotland. The March 16, General Meeting will just be a meeting. Treasurer Jim Lloyd stated that we have 26 paid members. The insurance for the March show at the Arboretum has been paid. Show Chairman Jo Anna told us that we are continuously receiving money from the vendors for our annual show in March. Ray Ritchey is working on grab bags. The Board gave Jo Anna the OK to offer lunch to the vendors free because they have not responded to her request for \$5.00. In the past no money was charged for lunch. Both days we will have croissant sandwiches from Von's Pavillon, chips and drinks. Jo Anna will take care of ordering the sandwiches. This year we will have the Welcome Table, Treasury Wheel, Grab Bags, Geode Cracking and a children's Rock game organized by Judi Romine. We will have the free hourly raffle prize drawings but no main prize raffle or display cases. A truck will not be needed. Colleen will start calling the members to request that they work at the show and make up a schedule.

Since we do not have a full slate of officers willing to take positions for the next fiscal year, Jo Anna will send e-mails out to the members asking them to vote.

1. Disband the club and give the money in our checking account to CFMS.

Or

2. Merge with the Pasadena Lapidary Club and give them the money in our account.

Jo Anna will send the same by regular mail to those who do not use e-mail.

Former members and some non members have requested to buy some items stored in the club garage. When the time comes their requests will be considered and determination will be made.

If anyone is interested in holding a Board position for the next fiscal year, please contact the chairman of the Nominating Committee Colleen Chestnut at (626) 443-7662.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25PM.

Colleen Chestnut



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, hosting for the CFMS and AFMS, presents

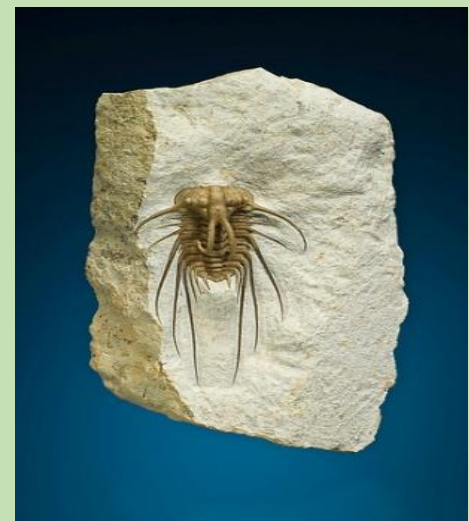
VENTURA ROCKS THE NATION!

National
**GEM • MINERAL • FOSSIL
SHOW**

Ventura County Fairgrounds • Ventura, CA
Fri.-Sun., June 9-11, 2017
GEMS • MINERALS • FOSSILS • JEWELRY • DEALERS • EXHIBITS
SPEAKERS • DEMONSTRATIONS • RAFFLE • SILENT AUCTION • KIDS
ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE!



Tourmaline, Himalaya Mine



Trilobite

The FEBRUARY 16, 2017

General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds

The February 16, 2017 General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds was called to order at 7:00PM.

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

Thomas Witt announced that tonight's program will be

Jim Brace-Thompson who will talk on Agates of Scotland or what a Rockhound does when going to a daughter's wedding.

Our March meeting will be the last meeting for the Monrovia Rockhound Club because we do not have a complete slate of officers for the next term.

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

Field Trip Chairman Kevin Doran announced that this months field trip was cancelled due to the rain.

Fellowship Chairman Linda Doran said that we have 10 members and 4 guests present. She introduced the guests and offered them a rock from the chest. The guests, Susan K. Macadams and Kimberly Reagan brought specimens from the Van Tassel Canyon to share and told us about their recent trip there. Thomas Witt had a February birthday.

Show Chairman Jo Anna reported that we have an insurance quote of \$367.20 for the March show. Also we have received confirmation from all dealers inside Ayers Hall at the Arboretum for next months show.

Federation Director Jo Anna said that the CFMS Show will be held June 9-11, 2017 at the Ventura Fairgrounds. Ventura will have their normal club show March 4-5, 2017.

Bulletin Editor Thomas will have some interesting articles in the March Bulletin.

Nominating Committee Chairman Colleen read the old slate of officers which did not have a candidate for president, secretary or representative. After discussion people stepped forward and agreed to run for positions.

The slate of officers is:

President--Geoffrey Greenham

Vice President--Jo Anna Ritchey

Treasurer--Jim Lloyd

Secretary--Susan K. Macadams

Representative--Kimberly Reagan

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM

Jo Anna and Ray Ritchey provided refreshments.

The slides and talk on Scotland and Scottish Agates by Jim Bace-Thompson was well presented and enjoyed by all.

Colleen Chestnut

Secretary



When the sign said "Watch for Falling Rocks", You might want to pay attention!



"Tiger Iron" from Weber's visit to Australia



Sharktooth Hill, Bakersfield

Afton Canyon



Afton Canyon is located 37 miles northeast of Barstow along Interstate 15 south of the Afton Road and Basin Road exits. Afton Canyon is one of few places where the Mojave River flows above ground making Afton an ideal location for bird and wildlife viewing. This an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect plant and wildlife habitat, and to preserve scenic values of the riparian area within the canyon. Check out the BLM info in our links below for rock collecting guidelines and other useful information.

Afton Canyon was carved by water draining from ancient Manix Lake, very likely through a breach caused by a strong seismic event along the Manix Fault about 14,000 years ago. Water eroded the colorful walls and rocks eventually carving the canyon as you see it today. The process continues slowly as the Mojave River meanders through the canyon floor giving it the nickname 'Grand Canyon of the Mojave'.

MATERIAL TO COLLECT - Red and yellow agate, jasper, (plume & sagenite) opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules, green fluorite, onyx and much more.

TOOLS - Collecting bags, rock hammer, eye gear, flashlights, spray water bottle, camera, etc. Also bring plenty of drinking water, sun screen, etc.

VEHICLES - For adventuring beyond the campground down the canyon you will need a high clearance four wheel drive vehicle. There is a lot of soft deep sand and large rocks.

WHERE TO COLLECT -

Area 1- Walk the canyon south of the BLM campground walking under the railroad bridge for about 1/2 mile or more if your legs hold out in the soft sand. Good agates and calcite rombs if you walk the ridges.

Area 2- Located on the East end of Afton canyon where Basin Road meets the railroad tracks and bridge. Some folks walk the main wash up canyon looking in the gravels for agates and jaspers. The more adventurous head further south along the eastern edge of the Cady Mountains. It is very easy to get stuck so travel with others at all times and be prepared.



Upcoming Events

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

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society -

Start Date: 3/4/2017
End Date: 3/5/2017
10 W. Harbor Blvd
Ventura County Fairgrounds
Ventura, CA

2017 PASADENA LAPIDARY SHOW

**The Society's 62nd Annual
Tournament Of Gems Show!**
Saturday and Sunday, March 11th and 12th
San Marino Masonic Hall
3130 Huntington Drive
San Marino CA 91108

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

**The 41st annual Stoddard Wells
ROCK HOUND " Tailgate "**
Victorville, CA

**March 10th, 11th and 12th, 2017 9 — 5:00
p.m. daily**

**FREE Event ! — Everyone Welcome ! — Public
Invited !**

**All Vendor spaces are FREE on a first come
basis**

Roseville Rock Rollers 55th Annual

Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Show
Natures Wonders: March 25th & 26th
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville, CA

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show - Spring

May 19 - 21, 2017

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

VP's Message

Well for our February Guest Speaker we enjoyed Jim Brace Thompson as our "Guest Speaker", He gave a presentation on Agates of Scotland, or what a rockhound does before and after attending his daughters wedding.

His travels took him to areas in and around Edinburgh. Doing a lot of beach combing near the lighthouse, the agates are small and if you want to get a large one you need to wait for someone to die. "It is a country of castles, sheep, bagpipes and whisky, more sheep, bagpipes and more whisky."

Another fact about Scotland is, it is a walking trail country. There are gates everywhere, no one can be denied access to land and trails.

Scotland, the U.K.'s northernmost country, is a land of mountain wildernesses such as the Cairngorms and Northwest Highlands, interspersed with glacial glens (valleys) and lochs (lakes). Its major cities are Edinburgh, the capital, with its iconic hilltop castle, and Glasgow, famed for its vibrant cultural scene. Scotland is also famous for golf, the game first played at the Old Course at St Andrews in the 1400s.

Well as we get ready for the annual Moroks Show the first weekend of March @ the LA County Arboretum, 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. I hope to see you there.

The Nominating Committee for Club Officers came 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. However, at our February meeting we had two visitors interested in joining the club. They each submitted applications and they would like to volunteer to fill two of the officers positions. Jeff has volunteered to take the Presidents chair.

On a personal note, my move to Apple Valley has been completed. I now call the high desert my home. It is a bit of a commute coming down to the San Gabriel Valley

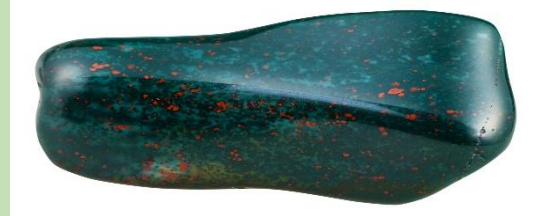
Thomas Witt, Morok's Vice President



MARCH Birthdays Cal Matthews



March Birthstones



**The more popular birthstone is Aquamarine,
However March shares another birthstone the Bloodstone**

Both stones are very different from one another in appearance, but each share a similar symbolism of preserving or enhancing the health of the wearer. Learn more about each March birthstone by Taking the time to read the descriptions below.

Aquamarine, has a rich color and has long been a symbol of youth, health and hope. Its mesmerizing color ranges from pale to deep blue and are reminiscent of the sea. A perfect birthstone for March, the **Aquamarine** creates a beautiful accent to spring and summer wardrobes. The serenely colored aquamarine invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name *aquamarine* is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning *the sea*. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Like [emeralds](#), this gemstone is actually a variety of a mineral called beryl. Large stones have been found all over the world, including one stone found in Brazil that weighed over 240 pounds. Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals that can be up to a foot long, making it a great gem to be cut and polished in larger carats for statement pieces. Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it's also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It's a beautiful stone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones.

The **Bloodstone**, a dark-green stone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Bloodstone is also called heliotrope, a word from the ancient Greek that means "to turn the sun." Many believe it was probably named such because of ancient ideas about how minerals reflect light. In fact, some believed that the sun itself would turn red if this stone was put into water. Bloodstone is sometimes also known as another name, Blood Jasper. But really these stones are chalcedony, a crypto crystalline quartz. There are two forms of bloodstone: one is more transparent (heliotrope) with red spots while the other is more opaque (plasma) and has little or no red spots. For those looking for a good quality bloodstone, it is generally considered that a solid green color with visible veins of red is best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion.

Rockhounding the High Sierras



It's a passion for some and a hobby for others, and the Eastern Sierra can fill any rock hounds sample books with a ton. There are over 200 different rocks and minerals listed for Inyo County in the California Mineral book published by the State of California. Some areas are private land and thus you need their permission before you can pocket a few samples. Protected areas are marked, so please don't remove pieces of nature if you are asked not to.

Mammoth is made up of craters, volcanoes, obsidian glass, lava and a lot of granite. Here are some places where you can see and uncover some good sites and perhaps samples for your collections.

Rock Hound Trails

Going South from Mammoth on Hwy. 395

Rossi Mine - 10 miles. Follow Sunland St. Minerals found - Garnets, Epidote, Geodes, Molybdenum.

Round Valley - 25 miles - Bishop Tuft. Minerals found - Garnets, Epidote.

Owens Valley Gorge - 30 miles. Minerals found - Monzonite.

Swall Meadows - 40 miles - Past houses. Minerals found - Garnets, Granite.

Crowley Lake - 45 miles - East side. Minerals found - Obsidian, Pumice.

Casa Diablo - 55 miles - Turn East at Junction of Hwy. 395 and 203. Minerals found - Chalcedony, Agate, Red and Black Obsidian

Red's Meadow - 70 miles - Go to end of Hwy. 203 into canyon. Minerals found - Silver, Galena, Sphalrite, Tranolite, Cirrusite.

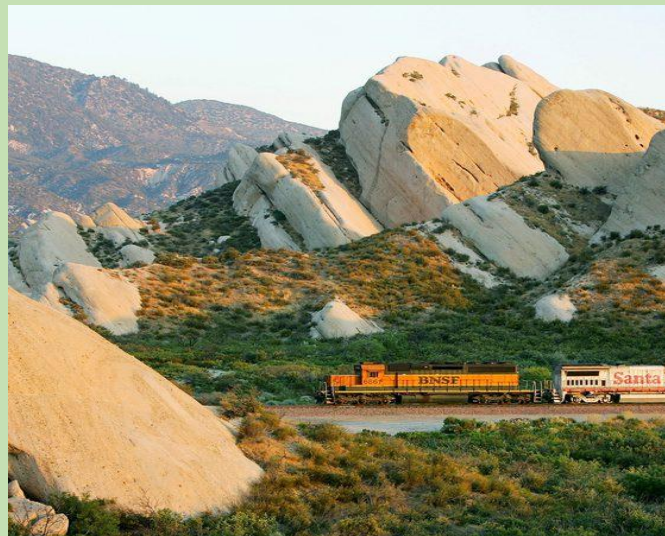
Agnew Meadow - 75 miles - Go to end of Hwy. 203, then to Agnew Camp, follow Shadow Lake trail 1 mile, left 1/2 mile. Minerals found - Rhodochrosite, Hematite, Garnets, Diopside, Epidote, Actinolite, Galena.

Mono Lake - 75 miles - South shore. Minerals found - Thinolite, Schist.

Mono Craters - 75 miles. Minerals found - Pumice, Obsidian.

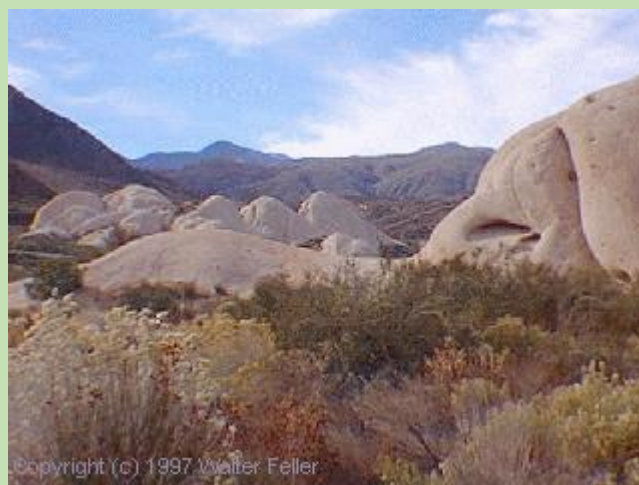
Bodie - 75 miles - Turn East at signs, 12 miles to ghost town, go beyond. Minerals found - Jasper, Agate, Gold, Geodes, Obsidian, Galena, Hematite.

Mormon Rocks



The Mormon Rocks, a striking group of pink sandstone rocks along Cajon Pass, served as shelter and an overnight campsite for a group of approximately 500 Mormon pioneers who traveled through the region by wagon in 1851 on their journey west to California, where they later founded the city of San Bernardino. The large sandstone formations contain a number of small holes and caves inhabited by animals such as lizards, owls and pack rats.

In the days of covered wagons – and the colonists had 150 of them – the journey was fraught and arduous. Waypoints bore ominous names like Bitter Spring and Impassible Pass. But by the end of 1851, the colonists had traversed the Cajon Pass (where the name of the Mormon Rocks still pays tribute to their passage), purchased Rancho San Bernardino from the Lugo family, and erected [Fort San Bernardino](#), a five-acre village crowded within a 12-foot stockade. Outside they dug irrigation canals, planted crops and vineyards, and cleared a lumber road into the nearby mountains.



Utah's Moqui Marbles

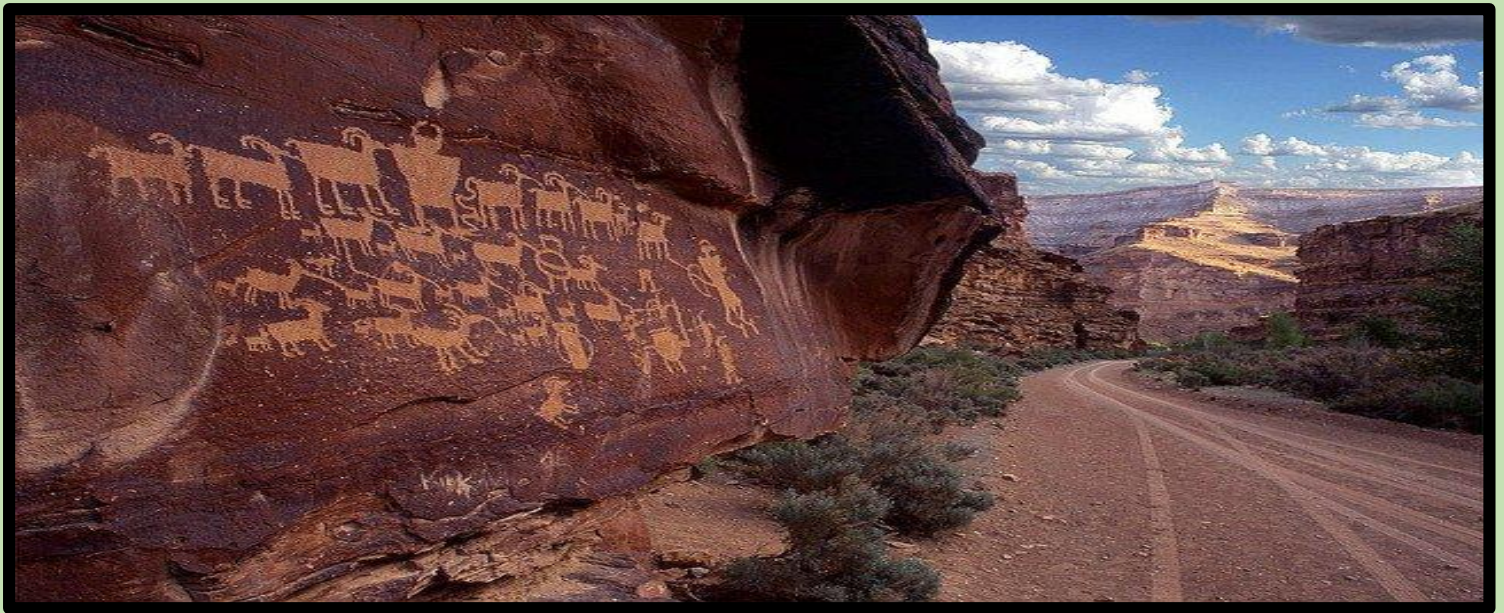


Moqui Marbles/Balls pronounced (Mo-Key) are essentially Ironstone and are found at the base of Navajo Sandstone formations. They are found in sizes from small marbles to baseball sizes. Moqui Marbles have been used for centuries by the shamanic tribes of the continents. Although newly discovered in the United States, Moqui's have been found on several continents in the ancient archaeological excavations.

Navajo Sandstone is a geologic formation in the Glen Canyon Group that is spread across the U.S. states of southern Nevada, northern Arizona, northwest Colorado, and Utah; as part of the Colorado Plateau province of the United States. The Navajo Sandstone formation is particularly prominent in southern Utah, where it forms the main attractions of a number of national parks and monuments including Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Zion National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Canyonlands National Park.

Moqui Balls are a different sort of stone. They are ironstone concretions formed from the splatter of a meteor thousands of years ago. The center of the stone is sand and the outer crust is ironstone or magnetite. They are slightly magnetic. The size can range from that of a pea to a baseball. The ones I have in stock are golf ball size or larger. They are also known as Shaman's Stones or Thunder Balls. They are used for healing and balancing. Shaman's Stones have been used in native cultures for thousands of years. The Shaman would either apply the stone directly to the diseased area to remove blockages, or place two of them, one in each hand, for overall balancing and calming by aligning the energy centers.

These stones display definite male and female vibrations. Many people determine if the Moqui Ball is male or female by the outward appearance. If the skin is smooth it is female and rough is male. Others say the female stone is round and the male is disk shaped. There is merit to either observation. When used for balancing, the female stone is placed in the left hand and the male stone in the right. My experience has shown a more definitive way of determining the energy. Place one stone between the palms of both hands. Within seconds you will feel a vibration. If it excites the upper half of your body, it is a female stone. If it excites the lower half of your body, it is male. Keep sampling stones until you find one of each for your use.



Nine Mile Canyon in the Utah desert

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3 Moroks Show set-up Ayers Hall LA Arboretum	4 Moroks Show Show Time 9:00 to 4:30 Ayers Hall
5 Moroks Show Show Time 9:00 to 4:30 Ayers Hall	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Begins	13	14	15	16 MOROKS General Meeting	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18
19	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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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

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