The MOROKS NEWSLETTER

"Gems of the Foothills"

MAY 2017

The Monrovia Rockhound's, Calif. founded 1957

Volume 60, Issue 5

Upcoming Meetings

Board Meeting, May 2nd

2 pm at 224 Oak Ave. Monrovia, Ca. 91016

General Meeting, May 18th 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Geoffrey Greenham

Phone:

VICE

PRESIDENT: Jo Anna Ritchey

Phone: 626-359-1624

TREASURER: Jim Lloyd

Phone: 626-793-9239

SECRETARY: Susan MacAdams

Phone: 310-994-8407

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Pebble Pups to Rock Hounds

COLLECTING MINERALS AND STONES CAN OPEN DOORS TO EARTH HISTORY AND SCIENCE

By Pamela Y. Wiggins

Don't overlook rocks if you're looking for a low- to no-cost collection you can share with a youngster. Children are fascinated by the colors, shapes and textures of stones, and they can be found virtually everywhere. But can picking up rocks here and there lead to a rewarding hobby? You bet! Kids can expand their collections to include gems, minerals, fossils and more with a little help from a collecting mentor or a helpful book, such as the recently published *Collecting Rocks, Gems and Minerals, 3rd Edition* (Krause) by Patti Polk. Sound advice goes a long way in helping kids grow their wish lists and learn more about what they're collecting.

KIDS & COLLECTING

While most kids start out by picking up pretty rocks, there are numerous ways to hone a collection. Selecting shapes like perfect rounds or hearts, for instance, can provide some focus. Or, perhaps certain colors can be explored in all their varieties. Other kids collect specific types of minerals or stones, such as an array of agates or quartz crystals.

Then there are varied fossils, shark's teeth and small bits of dinosaur bone that also fall into the category of rock and mineral collecting. All of these areas not only encourage collecting, but open doors to earth history and science. Encourage visits to natural history museums as a learning opportunity, just as he did with his grandpa when he was a boy.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

It's not always possible to get pebble pups out on forays into the wild, though. That doesn't mean they can't enjoy collecting gems and minerals just the same. "If you just can't for whatever reason," Polk says, "the next best thing is to go to a show." Just about every type of rock and stone can be found at gem and mineral shows, and most dealers have a basket of crystals or polished rocks for \$1 or less. Picking up a sample card that shows a dozen or so different examples of minerals can serve as an excellent educational tool as well

I still like the old rock shop, adding that as a kid, he would "dig down in an old shoe box under a table to get a rock I liked." Old-school shops like that still offer great bargains for beginners. He also notes that mineral specimens occasionally sell for bargain prices in Heritage's weekly online auctions. While many of these might not be kid-friendly in terms of budget, some are within reach of an adult looking to find "the greatest gift a kid's ever going to get."

No matter where you find your rocks, be sure to help a child bring home only examples they like best, otherwise you'll end up with a pile of unidentified rocks rather than a collection. "It's a process over time," Polk says. "You do have to become more discerning as your collection grows."

The April, 2017 Board Meeting of

the Monrovia Rockhounds

The meeting was called to order at 2:00PM at the Ritchey's home in Monrovia.

Officers present were

President---Geoffrey Greenham

Vice President---Jo Anna Ritchey

Secretary---Susan MacAdams

Representative---Kimberly Reagin

The First Topic of discussion was to welcome the New Board Members to the Monrovia Rockhounds: Geoffery Greenham as President and Susan MacAdams as Secretary. Kim Reagin was unable to attend the meeting

Jo Anna Ritchey discussed the upcoming April 20th program, the Annual Silent Auction. Members and Guest are invited to bring minerals, gems, jewelry, rocks, slabs, plants, and backed goods for the fundraiser.

On May 18th the Guest Speaker will be Renee Newman who will discuss "How To Evaluate Jade and Abalone Pearls."

On July 20th Geologist Mary Patt and her husband Dick will present a program on Florite: The Patts spent a year traveling around the continent of Australia collecting specimens

There was a discussion about the lack of color in the power point presentation at the March 16th meeting, "Fake Jewels from China." It was recognized that the cable to the computer could be the problem, not the computer itself. However the computer is showing some bleed through around the edges of the computer screen and Jo Anna and Geoffrey will take a look at the computer during the next general meeting which does not feature a speaker system.

Treasurer Jim Lloyd gave the number of paid members, which is 26

Jim also gave a handout of the Annual Budget and there was a general discussion about the items on the list. The Arcadia Show generated \$3000.00 in net and there was a general discussion about the success of the Show.

The Board discussed the purchase of a new computer for the club. Jo Anna Ritchey was checking prices of a similar computer and Geoffrey hoped it was only the cable.

Jo Anna Ritchey went on a field trip with "Friends of Mineralogy" with Kevin Doren near Barstow off Fort Irwin Road. She found some small Garnet, Iron, Azurite and Sphelite, using a dark UV Light.

There will be a California Federation of Mineralogy (CFMS) Show and Convention hosted by the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society (VGMS) at the Ventura Fair Grounds on June 8th thru the 11th. This annual show moves around the state of California and this year the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) will join the California Show to make it a Nationwide Convention. The Morocks are excited to have the convention held nearby. The fairgrounds can be reached by Amtrak train.

The remainder of the Board Meeting discussed the need for better publicity for the club. Both Geoffrey Greenberg and Susan MacAdams volunteered to help. The Monrovia Rockhounds Facebook page no longer exist any longer. Susan MacAdams suggested starting up a new Facebook Page. She also suggested visiting local schools to hand out flyers and contacting Science Teachers at the Junior High Schools and High Schools. Also local Colleges. Geoffrey mentioned attending a regular Monrovia City Council Meeting and this seems like a good idea.

There would need to be a budget for the printing of the Flyers for the Club.

There is also a need for a photographer for the Club.

Thomas Witt, who moved to Apple Valley, will continue being the editor for the Monrovia Rockhounds Bulletin this year.

Susan MacAdams, Secretary



The April 20, 2017 General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's

The April 20, 2017 General meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's was called to order at 7:05PM.

Officers present were

President---Geoffrey Greenham

Vice President---Jo Anna Ritchey

Treasurer - Jim LLoyd

Secretary---Susan MacAdams

Representative---Kimberly Reagan

The flag salute was led by Jo Anna Ritchey

President Geoffrey Greenham: Tonight's meeting will be a Silent Auction. Members and guests brought their specimens for the auction. This includes rocks, slabs, jewelry, plants, baked goods and white elephant items.

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

Field Trip Chairman, Kevin Doran, says there will be a field trip on April 29-30, Multi-Club Field trip to Stoddard Wells. Joe Goetz: 626-260-7239, joenmar1@verizon.net

Fellowship Chairman, Linda Doran, announced that tonight we have 11 members present and 1 guests. She introduced our guests---Matthew Bell.

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

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

Bulletin Editor, Thomas Witt will be working on May's issue of the bulletin. If anyone has any photos or articles, please submit them to Thomas via email: fixit056@Hotmail.com Please try to submit your them befor the 25th of the month in order to format the bulletin

New Business

The discussion of the spending some of the funds in the clubs bank account. "WE ARE A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION". As such we should be spending some of the funds on community and publicity and other things to benefit the club and its image to our local community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36PM.

We all went right into looking at and bidding at all the auction items.

Thomas Witt Bulletin Editor 人物プザ/ あ

The Lester Dale Mine

I'm not sure what it is that attracts me to places like this, but I really enjoy finding them. There's something about exploring old ruins, forgotten buildings and abandoned mining sites of time long ago that fascinates me. Making it to the Lester Dale Mine complex turned out to be a bit of an excursion. The site rests on the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, overlooking an off-roaders paradise known as Johnson Valley. The dirt road in (Bessemer Mine Road), is roughly six miles of alternating hardpack, washboard, deep sand, millions or rocks and sometimes a combination of all of those at the same time. I definitely recommend a four-wheel drive vehicle for the trip.

The Lester Dale was apparently quite active during the 1920s and mining there continued sporadically up until the 1950s. And by the way, the tailings, (piles of light colored material and huge excavations behind the complex) are not gold-related, they are the former site of a limestone quarry.

I passed several mine tunnels and abandoned buildings on the way in and stopped to explore them on the way out. Let me remind future visitors to the area that mine tunnels and shafts can be extremely dangerous and should generally be avoided. And let me mention bats. Big, flying, flittering, squeaking BATS. Abandoned mine tunnels make perfect homes for them, as I can now attest with first-hand knowledge.

Behind the mine sits the now-defunct Partin Limestone Quarry, which ceased operation in 2003.

Historic details of the Lester Dale are scant, but it is known that the mine operated from the 1920s thought 1952, with the 1920s being its largest production years. Some believe that the Spanish mined gold here many years before white settlers made their way west. Other reports indicate the Spanish never set foot in Johnson Valley due to its extreme remoteness and environment.







Today all that remains is the housing complex that housed the miners and possibly their families. A larger building stands among several smaller structures, likely a commons area, or the mine headquarters. The roofs have long collapsed, but the stone buildings remain standing as a testimony to the past.













Upcoming Events

May 5-7—YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Yucaipa, CA; Yucaipa Blvd and Adams St; Fri. 6-10, Sat. 12-10, Sun. 12-6; Free Admission; Highlights of the show include top quality dealers of unique and rare gems, rough rock, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, and more; kids activities; raffle with wonderful prizes, including cash, lapidary, and many other prizes from local merchants and dealers.; contact Lee Peterson, PO Box 494, Yucaipa, CA 92399, (909)-794-0731; e-mail: grandpasgems@gmail.com; Web site: yvgms.org

May 6-7—ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Brookhurst Community Center; 2271 W. Crescent Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; Free Admission; This is one of the best rock shows in Southern California. Many fun activities for kids! See rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, rough, slabs, vendors, gold panning, silent auction, hobby supplies, vintage stones, door prizes, gemstones, grab bags, tools, equipment and exhibits. Lapidary supplies. Stone carving, faceting, intarsia, wire wrapping and cabochon making demonstrations. Lunch, snacks and drinks are available.; contact Debra Tanner, CA, (714)-329-0290; e-mail: Debra.Tanner@rockwellcollins.com

May 12-14—COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: \$7 weekend pass, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

May **12-14—SACRAMENTO**, **CALIFORNIA**: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Scottish Rite Center; 6151 H St; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

May 19-21—SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Earl Warren Showgrounds; 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

May 19-21—SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; LLD Productions, Inc., Holiday Inn OCA; 2726 S Grand Ave; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Dealers selling minerals, fossils, rough and cut gems, jewelry, meteorites, crystals, metaphysical materials, lapidary supplies, home decor and more. Wholesale section for qualified buyers, international and local dealers. Items in all price ranges, for all interest levels.; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505)-867-0425; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: http://www.mzexpos.com

May 20-21—SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Pacific Crystal Guild, Fort Mason Center; 2 Marina Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$12; This is the year of the 30th Anniversary of the San Francisco Crystal Fair. On May 20-21, Fort Mason Center is hosting this crystal and gem extravaganza. Vendors from Asia, Europe, and Africa (as well as California artisans) will have awe-inspiring products. Minerals, gems, beads, jewelry -an amazing array of merchandise, plus for your delight and entertainment, you can meet up with healers, psychics, aura readers, and get a good massage.; contact Jerry Tomlinson, PO Box 1371, Sausalito, CA 94966, (415)-383-7837; e-mail: jerry@crystalfair.com; Web site: www.crystalfair.com

May 26-28—CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Karmic Beads and Gems, Cloverdale History Center; 215 North Cloverdale Blvd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Karmic Beads and Gems is proud to be your host for the Spring Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show at the Cloverdale History Center. Treasures from around the world include; Native American and contemporary jewelry, crystals, metaphysical items, jade, turquoise, bismuth, ammolite, opal, rubies, beads, singing bowls, "Old Stock" rough and finished rock and more. Free identification of rock and jewelry items. Fun for the whole family, where you can find treasures from \$1 up to \$\$\$.; contact Charlie Macias, (619)-920-0464; e-mail: karmicbeadsandgems@yahoo.com



MAY Birthdays

Jim Lloyd 5/19 Kevin Doran 5/19 Kendra Fitzgerald 5/20





Mays Birthstone "Emerald"



May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events.

But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word "smaragdus," means, quite literally, "green" in Greek.

emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green.

Emerald is a <u>gemstone</u> and a variety of the <u>mineral beryl</u> (Be₃Al₂(SiO₃)₆) colored <u>green</u> by trace amounts of <u>chromium</u> and sometimes <u>vanadium</u>.^[2] Beryl has a <u>hardness</u> of 7.5–8 on the <u>Mohs scale</u>.^[2] Most emeralds are highly <u>included</u>, so their toughness (resistance to breakage) is classified as generally poor. Emerald is a cyclosilicate.





Rockhound Barstow – Collect Agates, Onyx, Dioptase, Celestite and more in this Mojave Desert Town

By Justin Zzyzx and Brandy Zzyzx

The Mojave desert is a mineralogically rich area. One small town of less than 30,000 people serves as a great jumping off point for dozens of fantastic collecting sites. Many of these locations are Southern California classics, found in field guides dating to the early 1940's and surprisingly, still producing to this day. The Cady Mountains are an endless source of material, in fact, in 2016 a brand new find of "Baxter Blue" agate was found that rivals blue agate from anywhere in the world. You can be sure that enough time spent in the loving folds of the Cady mountains will reveal some mind blowing treasures to the lapidarist. Just a few miles outside of Barstow you hit the Calico Mountains with a vast silver district, an amazing series of borate deposits, celestite for days, tons and tons of fine selenite and ample supplies of petrified palm root just

borate deposits, celestite for days, tons and tons of fine selenite and ample supplies of petrified palm root just pouring out of the hills...and silver lace onyx and calcite concretions that can have celestite and quartz replaced spiders and flies inside! That is just the things you can find in a small mountain range just four miles north of highway 15!

One of the reasons Barstow is such a great starting point for rockhounding in this area is the prime location. Just 2 hours north-east of Los Angeles and 2 hours south-west of Las Vegas, this town has most everything you need for traveling in this area. Gas, groceries, hotels, restaurants, even the Diamond Pacific Rock Shop, attached to the Diamond Pacific Lapidary Equipment factory. Emergency services, like tire and vehicle repair can be found in Barstow so that even in the worst of conditions, there is somewhere "local" to take care of any problems. Convenience is what Barstow provides and there is no reason why that is not a good thing!

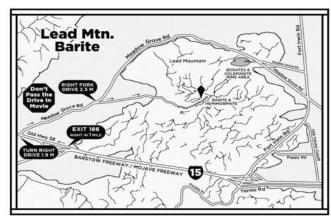
Just a half hour south of Barstow, and conveniently, a half hour closer to the LA Basin, the Mining Supplies and Rock Shop of Hesperia proposed this project, wanting to provide a field guide for the local area to visitor to their rock shop. The shop runs a very robust field trip service, providing guided field trips once a month to locations around the High Desert. They sell 6 monthly trips for \$50 on their website MiningSuppliesandRockShop.com
Who better to write and produce this Barstow rockhound field guide than the field trip leaders, Justin and Brandy Zzyzx – locals to the area and avid rockhounds, each of the locations in Rockhounding Barstow have been visited by Justin and Brandy. Justin wrote the text and Brandy

designed the maps, as you can see in the sample below.









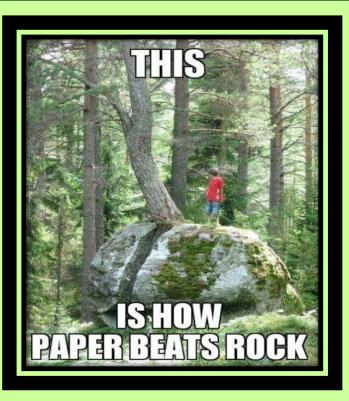
Safety Matters – Going it Alone

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Going it alone, getting away from it all, escaping the concrete canyons, taking a hike, or just going rockin, we are a traveling hobby. Unless one does a great deal of mail order, we go to the rocks instead of their traveling to us.

While young men and women may think of themselves indestructible, I have other thoughts on the matter and we may not be so young anymore. So here are some safety thoughts about going it alone!

- Keep the folks, friends or relatives or someone apprised of your travel plans, details of roads, trails, etc. Its not a good idea to tell someone your plans to go one place and not bother to tell them of a change of plans.
- 2. Have a fully charged cell phone and a way to charge the phone in the wild. Keep checking your bars, (not the ones along the highway).
- 3. Bring sufficient water times two. It is often the case that one drinks more water when working in a hot dig.
- 4. Have maps with you, the kind that do not require a battery. Know how to use them.
- 5. Have a first aid kit and your meds with you, not back at you vehicle which may be parked a long ways off.
- Use good clothing, footwear and safety gear including bug powder, hat, sun screen, goggles, gloves, survival gear, flash light or whatever one thinks might be appropriate for the conditions.
- Mind the weather as conditions can change rather suddenly.
- 8. Have a plane B (and C, D) as the conditions and situations warrant.
- 9. Take rest breaks before you are tired, not after. The same goes for drinking water. Drink before you are thirsty, feeling thirsty means you are already dehydrated.
- 10. Have food with you. To save weight, there are a number of energy foods and power bars.
- 11. There are many other safety rules to think of, so just keep in mind when going it alone to be careful
- 12. Please be safe on your adventure.



California's Rich Natural Resources

The California Geological Survey provides objective geologic expertise and information about California's diverse non-fuel mineral resources. Maps, reports, and other data products developed by the staff assist governmental agencies, mining companies, consultants, and the public in recognizing, developing, and protecting important mineral resources. California ranks second in the U.S. in non-fuel mineral production; in 2005, over 30 non-fuel mineral commodities -valued at \$3.7 billion dollars - were produced from 820 California mines.

Historic Gold Mines - In recognition of the California Gold Discovery to Statehood Sesquicentennial (1998-2000) CGS produced the "Map of California Historic Gold Mines" as a poster at the scale of 1:1,500,000. The map shows the location of 13,500 historic California gold mines.

Serpentine - California State Rock - Serpentine is the metamorphosed remains of magnesium-rich igneous rocks, most commonly peridotite, from the earth's mantle. Serpentine rock is apple-green to black and is often mottled with light and dark colored areas. Its surfaces often have a shiny or wax-like appearance and a slightly soapy feel. Serpentine is usually fine-grained and compact but may be granular, platy, or fibrous in appearance. Serpentine may contain asbestos

Gold - California State Mineral - State legislation signed on April 23,1965 designated native gold as California's official state mineral. At the signing ceremony Governor Edmund G. Brown Sr. said, "Selection of gold as our state mineral is acknowledgement of the intimate part it has played in the history of our people and of the fact that mining is a major California economic activity.

Benitoite - California State Gem - On October 1, 1985 benitoite was designated as the official state gem. Named in 1907 after the river, county, and nearby mountain range where it was found. "Benito" is a spanish form of benedictus, meaning blessed. Crystals can occur in a rich blue color as striking and flawless as the finest sapphires

California is a veritable treasure chest of nationally acclaimed natural landmarks and much adored scenery. This geologic legacy on display in the landscape can be observed throughout California's State Park system. The mission of California State Parks is "to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."

You know you're a Rockhound when,

The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait!



MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board Meeting 2 PM	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 Kentucky Derby
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mothers Day	15	16	17	18 General Meeting 7 PM	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	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 Please contact

Thomas Witt @ 760-552-2404

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