



# The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the  
Sacramento Mineral Society  
Sacramento, California

# SMS

March 2007  
Volume 67, No. 3

## The Jade Cruise—A Different Sort of Rockhounding

—By Attendees: Betty & Ted Yuzak, Kim Hofer, Carol & Ken Otterstrom, & Bobbi Knapp

Several of us from the *Sacramento Mineral Society* traveled on down to San Pedro to hop aboard the Royal Caribbean's *Monarch of the Seas* for a 3 day, 3 night cruise to Ensenada. The cruise was on January 19-22, 2007, and the highlight and reason for the trip, were the two lectures and two workshops on the subject of jade.

The trip was initiated by the *Monterey Park Gem Society* (MPGS). The instructor was Francis Lau, an active member of the MPGS. He owns a 300-employee jade factory in China; he also owns a pearl farm in the same area. The first lecture on jade lasted about two hours and each of the two workshops lasted two hours each. Francis was a very interesting, funny and animated speaker.

The lectures were strictly on Burma jadeite. All his jadeite comes from the original Burma jade mines. He discussed how he obtains the jade rocks and how he evaluates the rocks prior to purchase. He stressed the gamble involved in buying a rock. Sometimes the risk in purchasing a jade rock is financially shared with other business men. Francis pays his jade employees \$3.00 a day and they are quite happy with that wage, and often bring in their family members to work as well. The master cutter and trainer make more than \$3.00 per day. The photos he shared were absolutely amazing—rough jade, and every step along the way to being beautifully and intricately carved.

He discussed the importance of color in jade (white jade not being worth as much as colored jade). The colors of Jade he brought for us to work with were very beautiful. They included lavender, dark green, light green, yellow, white, and shades of red to orange and brown. He spoke of the minerals present that give each different piece its distinctive color. When he buys a rock, he tries to remove the "skin". This gives him a window to estimate the color. He is looking for a kind of purple-blue and green color (which are the best colors to look for in this process).

The workshop was so heavily attended that we didn't get many of our concerns about jade answered. As we recall, he said much jade comes via the underground from Burma. Sellers can earn a year's salary from one transaction. Francis did spend a little time with Betty and Ted at dinner and found out that lavender jade when put against light should be blue/purple rather than pink; a pink tone probably means it was colored.



Cruise participants Carol & Ken Otterstrom, Kim Hofer and Bobbi Knapp.

Workshops consisted of three hands-on projects: a jade and pearl necklace, a scalloped gold chain with jade beads, and assembling segments of gold chains with multi-colored jade beads to make three different sized necklaces. The MPGM members were extremely helpful and pleasant to non-MPGS members. All in all it was a great group.

The Margaritas in Ensenada were pretty good too!



Necklaces created by the participants on the cruise included jade and natural pearl.

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**Sacramento Mineral Society**

P.O. Box 160544 ♦ Sacramento, CA, 95816

Founded February 1936 ♦ Colors: Blue & Gold

Member of:

- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- CO-OP Field Trip Association

**Location and Meeting Times:**

SMS Clubhouse  
4205 Lemay Street, Rancho Cordova, CA

Business Meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Educational Meeting:

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

**Visitors are always welcome.**

Shop open Saturday and Wednesday  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Shop fee: \$7.00

Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year/Juniors \$1.00

Web Site: [www.sacmineralsociety.org](http://www.sacmineralsociety.org)

**Mission Statement**

The Sacramento Mineral Society is dedicated to promoting interest in and increasing knowledge and understanding of mineralogy and the related sciences and lapidary and the related arts; to promote and organize field trips, to encourage the study of geological formations and the collection and preservation of minerals as they occur in nature.

**SMS Goal**

The goal of the Sacramento Mineral Society is to gain and maintain an active membership of adults and juniors who are interested in mineralogy and the related sciences, and lapidary and the related arts, and who will eventually carry our club into the future. Our club is about learning and teaching. We all have something to learn and each of us has something to teach. We share our passion for minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts.



The right to copy is freely granted to all AFMS-affiliated clubs and its members with proper credit given to *The Matrix*. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise noted.

Deadline for submission of items is the 25th of each month preceding publication. Submission of items by email is preferred and should be addressed to: [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net). All other items should be mailed to the attention of the editor at the SMS address:  
P.O. Box 160544, Sacramento, CA 95816

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	Tarance Beguhl	(916) 519-2590	<a href="mailto:t1beagle@aol.com">t1beagle@aol.com</a>

**Committees and Chairs**

By-Laws:	OPEN (3 positions)	Shop Advisors:	Stan Henneman
Display:	Carl Zimmerman		Carl Zimmerman
Field Trips:	Dan Brown	Shop Foreman:	Tarance Beguhl
Groundskeeper:	OPEN	Juniors:	Amy Byrd
Historian:	Frank Fawcett		Bill Elkins
Librarian:	Frank Fawcett	Custodian:	Joy Fergoda
Newsletter Mailing:	Meg & Frank Zbierski	Webmasters:	Kris Jarusevicius
Membership:	Frank Fawcett (Temp)		Tarance Beguhl
Club Publicity:	Tarance Beguhl	Audit:	OPEN (2)
Business Advertising & Corporate Sponsorship:	Kevin Beguhl, Sheldon Shuper		

**2007 Show Committees and Volunteers**

Show Chairs:	Kevin Beguhl
	Frank Fawcett
	Kris Jarusevicius
Show Food Chair:	Linda Baglin
Show Print Advertising:	Janice Marzolf
Show Mailings:	Janice Marzolf
Dealer Contracts:	Kevin Beguhl
	Sheldon Shuper
Exhibits:	Sheldon Shuper
Juniors Activities & Spinning Wheel:	Amy Byrd

**March Shop Steward Schedule**

Saturday*		Wednesday	
March 3	Craig M. / Carl Z.	March 7	Ron S.
March 10	Sam L. / Stan H.	March 14	Craig M.
March 17	Tarance B. / Sam L.	March 21	Carl Z.
March 24	Kevin B. / Stan H.	March 28	Stan H.
March 31	Tarance B. / Jim C.		

\*Please note that two Shop Stewards will now be available every Saturday to assist with training new members and keeping the saws operating.

**Reminders:**

- Glasses are always required while working in the shop.
- Be sure to sign in before using shop equipment.
- Report any problems to the Shop Steward of the day.
- Rock cutting is to be performed by Shop Stewards only.
- Please be sure to clean up your work area and your machine before leaving for the day.

## President's Message

Let me start off by again thanking all the members new and old that have taken the time to make the Sacramento Mineral Society the great club that it is and strive to keep it there. I don't feel that there can ever be enough recognition to the members who make this club what it is and control the direction of the future by getting involved. This happens by attending the Business Meetings.

With the weather finally beyond the ice age of 2007 and starting to warm into spring and we look forward to the summer months, our minds turn to the thought of rockhounding and field trips – or at least I have started looking in that direction. I will be getting together with **Dan Brown** to see what he thinks about starting to get together a schedule for trips that might interest members. Along that line, I'm currently planning to go over to Nevada to visit Black Mountain and collect some picture rhyolite in the upcoming weeks and would be interested in knowing if any of the membership would like to attend this trip. Many of the members have been to Yellow Mountain, which is very close to Black Mountain, but the material available is totally different. My thought is to meet on Sunday, March 11, at the petroglyphs (outside Fallon) at 9:00 a.m. and head out for a group dig in the area. If anyone is interested, please call me with your input. I'd love to have some SMS members along and I look forward to hearing from you.

Along a different note, **Frank Fawcett** did it again with the Educational Meeting. It was an outstanding success! Close to 40 members attended to talk about different rocks and the properties of each, and the particulars of cutting these stones. Some stones have certain characteristics that, if the orientation of the cut is wrong, there is no character left in the finished slab. We have also brought back the silent auctions with the sole purpose of generating revenue to go towards the scholarship fund. So please, attend the Educational Meetings and check it out. There will be many exciting and different items up for auction in the coming months. If you'd like to donate an item for the auction, please contact Frank Fawcett. I think we should all let Frank know how much we enjoy the meetings. He is putting a lot of thought and effort into them.

We have noticed that with the large attendance we are now having at these meetings, we have a problem with the clubhouse due to the divided room. This problem is being addressed and will be corrected prior to the March meeting, making it easier to hear and see the things going on. Watch for those changes in the clubhouse – they're sure to make a difference in our gatherings.

Due to a concerted effort by **Tarance Beguhl**, Frank Fawcett,

and myself, to get the saws cleaned, oil changed and do some much needed repairs, we now have all five of the saws up and running in the saw shop. It is very much Tarance's goal to make sure the saws and other equipment is up and usable for all of the members. Through his hard work and the delegation and volunteering of others, it seems to be happening. In the clubhouse, Frank Fawcett and **Frank Zbierski** began the monumental task of starting to get it cleaned up and organized. There's more to come in the future with plans being made to do some reorganizing to hopefully make it more "member-friendly". Frank F. also replaced all the lights in the shop that were burned out (and we all just thought there was no power to them all this time! – Ed.), making it a little brighter and easier to see what you are doing. There are many other projects in the works to help keep us rolling in 2007. If you're interested in helping or have any ideas for improvement, please let one of the board members know. We want your input so YOUR club can be the best it can be.

We are already working on many details for the November show. We have met with the *Scottish Rite Temple* and have contracted to take on the other part of the building to use during the show. This will allow us to add more vendors as well as possibly have speakers and/or educational events running throughout the show. Dealer contracts will be going out soon. Along that note, we are still looking for volunteers in many capacities. If you are willing to help in this outstanding event, please contact either **Kris Jarusevicius**, Frank Fawcett, or myself. We are also seeking volunteers to work in May at the *Gem Faire* at *Cal Expo*, and at *Snyder's Pow Wow* in Valley Springs. Please contact **Stan Henne-man** at (916) 363-5011 if you'd like to volunteer a few hours at our booth at the *Gem Faire*; please let a board member know if you'd like to help out at *Snyder's*.

**Remember: this club is only what the members make it.** My job, as well as that of the entire board, is to give it direction and stability as well as run the business end of things. But twelve people do not make up a club of this stature – it takes having many people involved.

Along the line of classes, I would enjoy hearing from members to let me know what they might be interested in having available. On the flip side, if you have a special skill or talent that you think others might enjoy learning, please let me know. We'd love to have you present a workshop to interested members.

Well, I've rambled on long enough, so I say happy rockhounding and rock cutting! Have fun, because fun is what it's all about!

– Kevin Beguhl, President

## NOTICE:

While starting to clean up the clubhouse, we've noticed several bins and boxes full of rocks and other specimens without any identifying information as to who they belong to. If you happen to own any of these items "stored" in the clubhouse, please claim them as soon as possible. Items not claimed by mid-March will be "donated" to the rock auction or made available to other club members. Thank you.



## SMS Business Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2007

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum of board members plus two regular members were present. The previous meeting minutes were read, modified, and MSA.

### Announcements

It was announced that the *Gem Faire* has been moved up to May 18-20 and so our SMS open house (tailgate BBQ) will be moved to May 26. Mark your calendars! **Stanley Henneman** has volunteered to organize and staff the *Gem Faire* booth at Cal Expo in May and August and to work on organizing and maintaining an SMS publicity box which will have all pertinent information about SMS available for on-the-spot distribution to interested persons/organizations. Thank you, Stanley! The group also talked about attempting to obtain some items members have made to travel to the shows as well.

### Committee Reports

Treasurer: **Sheldon Shuper** gave the Treasurer's report. There was discussion about how best to disseminate this information because it is usually so detailed that not every member would want to read it in its entirety. It was MSA that each month the treasurer will post the report on the meeting room bulletin board by the date of the Educational Meeting.

Shop: **Tarance Beguhl** reported that three of our five saws are operable. A fourth needs significant repair and the smallest saw just needs a new blade. (A "thank you!" goes out to Tarance and **Frank Fawcett** for cleaning all working saws.)

### Old Business

There was more discussion on having a local/emergency telephone line installed for a one-time \$62.73 installation charge and \$10.50 monthly fee. It was MSA to have this line installed; **Kevin Beguhl** will follow through on this. There was discussion about purchasing an inexpensive answering machine for the SMS phone line; it was MSA; Kevin will purchase an answering machine.

Kevin is in the final stages of engaging a local printing company to print *The Matrix* each month in exchange for an ad in the newsletter. New member, **Megan Zbierski**, volunteered to be responsible for mailing the newsletter each month. (Thank you, Megan!)

All SMS padlocks and door locks have been changed/re-keyed. Board members and shop stewards have appropriate new keys.

It was discussed, MSA to start up new rock auctions at meetings and other appropriate events. Our next auction will be at the February Educational meeting; **Kevin Beguhl** and **Joy Fergoda** will donate items to auction. Proceeds from all rock auctions will be used to award an annual educational scholarship.

As mentioned in last month's business meeting minutes, the SMS lease which comes up for renewal September 2008 can be renewed for three years, after which SMS will have to find a new location.

There was further discussion on how to follow-up with people

who were SMS members last year but have not renewed this year. Several people volunteered to call delinquent members to see if they were interested in renewing their membership.

### New Business

For a nominal fee, SMS can rent an additional 3,200 feet of space in the *Scottish Rite Temple* for our November show. It was MSA to add this rental space and to increase vendor rental space from \$14 to \$16 per foot.

The February 15th Educational meeting will discuss how to cut particular kinds of rock for the maximum lapidary effect, i.e., obsidian, tiger eye, etc.

Five new members were voted into SMS: **Sharon and Donald Holl, Ed and Sherry Claborn, and Jay Hopkins.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

—Joy Fergoda, Secretary

## Education Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2007

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The topic for the meeting focused on how to determine the best way to cut a chunk/piece of rock or a slab to get the best material to use.

**Dave Fisk** was the first presenter. He stated the "do's and don't's" of cutting cabs from slabs and showed slides of slabs pointing out the best areas for cabbing. "Don't" cut where there are cracks, quartz veins, pits, matrix, or thin edges; "Do" look for contrast, pattern, and color. If a slab has visible cracks, do the "slap" test: slap the slab on a table and see if it cracks into pieces! If it does, you can always use 330 epoxy to glue pieces together or choose another piece of the slab. It's better to do this *before* you begin cabbing a piece with a crack only to watch it break during grinding/polishing.

Presenter **Jim Foscett** recommended wetting the slab to look for cracks and said that he sometimes epoxies a garnet or other stone in vugs (pits) so it will look nice for cabbing. Jim showed us several gorgeous bolo ties he made and a sphere of franklinite that fluoresced orange and green when he shined a black light on it -- beautiful!

The third presenter, **Kevin Beguhl**, discussed directional cutting of rock chunks/pieces. He showed a piece of labradorite that, if slabbed incorrectly, would have had very little schiller (opalescence), and pieces of Biggs jasper and Tacoma jasper that, if cut incorrectly, would yield very little patterning. Among other materials that require precise slabbing are obsidian, tigereye, and turrutella. Specifics were not given on how to slab these rocks. It was suggested that members consult with shop stewards or other knowledgeable members before slabbing these materials.

Respectfully submitted,

—Joy Fergoda, Secretary

*Birthstones are a fun way to celebrate one's birth. The list of modern birthstones currently accepted in the U.S. was developed in 1912 by the American National Association of Jewelers; a different list is maintained in Germanic countries. The gems now associated with each month have only a slight relationship to ancient beliefs however. Throughout history, different lists have reflected a variety of stones connected to ancient lore and different cultures. This series of articles is an attempt to share some of these old beliefs and will hopefully give us a chance to learn about a few more of the "gems" that catch our fancy. I hope you enjoy it. -Ed.*

**Bloodstone**

Bloodstone is a dark green variety of the silica mineral chalcedony that has nodules of bright red jasper spots distributed throughout its mass. The dark red spots on a dark green background resemble drops of blood, thus the name. It is also known as

heliotrope, meaning "sun turner" in Greek.

Early Christian legends reveal that the bloodstone first appeared when at the time of crucifixion, a few drops of Christ's blood fell and stained the jasper stone lying down near the foot of the cross. As the red spots were considered to be the blood of Christ, the stone was ascribed special magical and healing powers. Since that time, people have worn the gemstone to cure all blood-related diseases, although in the past it was also used in sculptures representing flagellation and martyrdom. Legend also tells of its ability to foretell the future and turn water red, which led to the notion that bloodstone turned the sun blood-red and caused violent storms.

The green shade appears due to chlorite content in the composition. The spots on the surface are usually red, but can be brown

or multi-colored. Scientifically, these spots occur due to the presence of iron oxide. It is non-porous and opaque in nature. It is easily cut into different shapes, and cabochons are common. Its physical properties are the same as those of quartz. It has a refractive Index of 1.535-1.539, a specific gravity of 2.60 and is a 6.5-7 on the Mohs Scale. It should be protected from sharp blows and scratches. Household solutions and cosmetics can also spoil the natural beauty of the stone. Bloodstone should always be kept dry as moisture could ruin the polish of the gem.

Bloodstone is said to help one become more knowledgeable in the ways of the world. It is a "stone of courage" that can help one to accept change and recognize the benefits of turmoil prior to perfection. It holds the message, "be here now". It can assist in overcoming distress and anxiety, and help to dispel states of bewilderment and obscure thought. It is said to revitalize love, relationships and friendships, and helps one demonstrate unselfishness and idealism. It also enhances creative efforts, improves talents and abilities, and supports decision making.

Bloodstone has been said to strengthen the blood-purifying organs, improve blood circulation, and have a positive influence on the bladder. It has also been used for treatment of leukemia, failing eyesight, lung congestion and rashes. It was once believed that it could remove tumors and was thought to be able to stop hemorrhages with the merest touch.

The main source of Bloodstone is in India, but deposits can also be found in Australia, Brazil, China, South America and the U.S. (Wyoming). The wide availability of this gemstone makes it quite affordable.

**Helpful Hint:** Toss a piece of charcoal or chalk into your toolbox. It will keep your tools rust free. You can also put that piece of chalk in your jewelry box. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. The chalk absorbs the sulfur gases.

# BeadBabe The Store

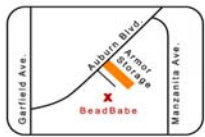


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## Sacramento Mineral Society's Winning Ways

—By Elizabeth Myers, Membership Committee

Anyone who has had the good fortune to speak with **Barbara Foskett** of the *Sacramento Mineral Society* knows what I mean when I say she is a delight. After a few minutes of speaking with her by phone I feel energized and ready to write about all the goodies she shared with me.

When asked to what she attributed the continued rise in the club's membership Barbara enthusiastically responded. The club participates at the annual *Gem Faire* stocking their table with club brochures, membership forms, information on their annual open house and of course, rocks are on display. Their annual open house, an informal affair held the week following the *Gem Faire*, features a potluck and piles of rocks for people to hunt through. Barbara told of one year when the rain did not deter two determined ladies from hunting through the rock piles. They actually thought it a benefit—they could see the real colors of the rock. My kind of gals! The potluck is held at the club's fully-equipped shop at the old Mather Field facility, where the club rents two buildings from the county; one houses the shop and the other is where they hold their general meetings.

The Sacramento Society's shop is kept busy every Wednesday and Saturday with lapidary projects. Barbara says they have great instructors and I don't doubt it. She spoke of a young lady from Yuba City, one of several new members from that town, who is already turning out beautiful lapidary. In addition to the lapidary, the club plans a specialty class at least once a month. Some of the specialty classes are bead stringing, casting, wire wrapping, bone carving, casting, fusion (using dichroic glass) and rock painting. A metal smithing class is in the works.

Then there is the club's connection to California State University (CSUS). A geology professor is a member and the club helps with specimens for the geology department in addition to donating rocks for the department's annual rock sale. The president of the CSUS Mineral Club, **Melinda Fredrickson** (winner of a \$2,000 CFMS scholarship), is also a member of the club, along with several other CSUS students. If the club does well at their annual show, they award two scholarships. This year they awarded a \$1,000 and \$500 scholarship to CSUS students.

According to Barbara, the new editor of the club's bulletin, the *SMS Matrix*, does a fantastic job keeping the membership informed. **Kris Jarusevicius**, the editor of the bulletin, won both the CFMS and AFMS new editor awards. Congratulations, Kris!

Potential members sometimes sign up at the *Gem Faire* booth, mail in their applications, or come to the club's business meeting. After joining there is plenty for them to do, talented instructors to show them how and a well-written newsletter to keep them informed. And of course, the contagious enthusiasms of other club members like Barbara.

CMFS Newsletter, 03/07

Federation News

## Safety

—By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman 2007

There are many people new to rock hounding and some of the older ones might need a little reminding. Lots of us will be going on field trips whether singularly or in groups.

### WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF SAFETY AT ALL TIMES.

Start by making sure your tools are safe.

Chisels: heads of chisels should not have any mushroom heads. If the heads are rounded over with fingers (jagged pieces of metal) sticking out from the head of the chisel, grind them off even with the head of the chisel. I carry a piece of metal in my arm that flew off—like a bullet—from a mushroom head when I was beating on a chisel to beat off a ball-bearing from an axle. It could do the same to you if you were trying to break a rock.

Sledges: Use a size you can handle. I have 1#, 2#, 4# 6#, and an 8# sledges. There are even larger ones. Be sure the heads are tight on the handles. You can obtain little pie-shaped pieces of metal from hardware stores which can be driven into the wood of the handle where it goes through the head.

Hammers: The same applies to hammers.

Rock picks: Most rock picks have handles formed from the same metal as the head. Do not use your rock pick to beat on a chisel. A rock pick is designed to beat on a rock, not on metal.

Safety glasses: Always use safety glasses when striking a rock or a chisel. A little flying chip can put your eye out in a heart beat. If someone else is striking with a hammer or a sledge, and you are nearby, be aware—turn your face away, wear glasses, and/or move away. You, as a wielder of a hammer/sledge must be aware of others in your vicinity and wait for them to move to take preventative action.

Gloves: Use heavy gloves. When holding a chisel—especially when you become weary—you may miss the head of the chisel and hit your hand. **THAT HURTS!** We all do that. A heavy glove helps cushion the blow to your hand and helps to lessen the damage to your hand. A good idea is to take a short section of a garden hose, insert your chisel through the one end of the hose, and hold the other end of the hose.

Shovels, rakes, hoes: Tighten the handles—maybe drive a nail or a screw through the metal where the wood enters the head. You might have to drill a small hole in the metal. Shoveling, raking, hoeing, tossing rocks out of your way... be certain that no one is in the path of your refuse or below you out of sight.

DO NOT dig under a large overhang. If an overhang were to collapse upon you, you could suffocate before anyone noticed your predicament.

CMFS Newsletter, 03/07

The name *crystal* is derived from the Greek word *Krystallos*, which came from the Latin word *kyros*, meaning icy cold. The ancients believed that crystals formed from water which froze so hard that it would never melt.

## The Presidential Address

—By Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

In the February issue of the AFMS Newsletter, John Washburn had an article on Co-Sponsorship. The idea is an excellent one, and John gives a formula that has worked. Not only are there financial benefits, but it allows the club to become more integrated into the community.

Many clubs are suffering from a decline or static membership. A major part of that reason is that clubs are not effective in advertising. Let the Co-Sponsors help. They have as much of a stake in making your show a success as your club does (they don't want to be associated with a dud).

They have resources that your club cannot hope to meet. Consider free passes that the Co-Sponsors could pass out. The objective is to get more people into your show. Cheap advertising. Your show should take it from there.

Too often our advertising for shows is only effective for those who are already knowledgeable about the show and its probable contents. Rarely do we hold shows where the public stumbles in and discovers the world of Gems and Minerals. And that is our failing. We keep advertising to ourselves, which brings in no new interest.

Co-Sponsorship could be a way to help your club grow by bringing in new people. A show in a Mall would help as well, but that is another story.

If you have already discarded your February Issue of the AFMS Newsletter (shame), Steve Weinberger at the Central Office, or Shirley Leeson the Historian will be glad to provide you a reprint or you can download a copy by visiting the AFMS website at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and clicking on the Newsletter tab.

AFMS Newsletter, 03/07

## Paleontological Resources Act Reintroduced

—By Jon Spunaugle, American Lands Access Assn Executive VP for Legislation

On January 18, 2007 a fossil Collecting Bill HR 554 "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives McGovern of Massachusetts and Renzi of Arizona. It was sent to the *Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture* for a period of time to be determined by the Speaker of the House. (This means that regardless of what the Committee Chair people do, the bill can be brought to the floor of the House for a vote at any time with or without amendment or Committee recommendation).

Preliminary examination of the actual bill language suggests that is very similar to the bills introduced and passed by the U.S. Senate in past years. Casual collecting would be allowed as seen appropriate by the government land managers. Provisions for civil and criminal penalties remain in the Bill as does a rewards section for information on possible violators and other property confiscation including all paleontology resources.

The bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, as Bill S-320.

Visit [www.thomas.loc.gov/](http://www.thomas.loc.gov/) to read the full text.

AFMS Newsletter, 03/07

## Theft Alert

—From the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS) Executive Board has been notified of a fossil theft from the Smithsonian's Fossil Mammal displays. A number of important type specimens have been taken from the museum's public displays, including:

1. *Frictops emryi* (Insectivora) USNM 336367, skull with nearly complete postcranial skeleton.
2. *Neohipparion republicans* (Perissodactyla, Equidae) USNM 352701, partial upper jaw and palate with nearly complete dentition.
3. *Chrysemys picta* (Testudines, Testudinidae) USNM 351927, complete carapace.
4. *Palaeolagus haydeni* (Lagomorpha) USNM 16291, complete skull with lower jaws.
5. *Thinocyon velox* (Carnivora) USNM 22479, complete skull with lower jaws.
6. *Uintacyon juglans* (Carnivora) USNM 22478, anterior part of skeleton on slab.
7. *Ischyromys veterior* (Rodentia) USNM 336369, skull and partial skeleton.
8. *Hyrachyus affinis* (Perissodactyla, Tapiridae) USNM 22482, complete skull and lower jaws.
9. *Paradjidaumo trilophus* (Rodentia) USNM 18804, skull and partial skeleton.

If anyone is contacted with any of these specimens, or should see them in Tucson or at a local show, please contact Matthew Carrano at (202) 633-1314, or any of the AAPS board members immediately.

Go to [www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/stolen\\_specimens/](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/stolen_specimens/) to view pictures of these specimens.

AFMS Newsletter, 03/07

## What Is a Phantom Crystal?

A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal. The makeup of the phantom must be the same as the one which encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal.

The usual explanation of phantoms is the intermittent growth, growing for a while, and then stopping. For a period, the crystal is exposed and a very small amount of foreign matter falls on the surface. Then the conditions of the crystal change and it begins to grow again, with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more other crystals enclosed within it.

Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal; at other times they are not. In clear crystals such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy or faint, therefore we have the name phantom.

The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species.

Via The Voice via Fresno Chips, 07/01

## The Lesson for Today Is...

**Alaska:** More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.

**Amazon:** The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon River is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

**Antarctica** is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, that is), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi Desert.

**Brazil** got its name from the nut, not the other way around.

**Canada** has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning "big village."

**Chicago:** Next to Warsaw, Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.

**Damascus, Syria,** was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.

**Istanbul, Turkey,** is the only city in the world located on two continents.

**Los Angeles'** full name is *El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula* —and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of it's size: L.A.

**New York City:** The term "The Big Apple" was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930's who used the slang expression "apple" for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time – The Big Apple. There are more Irish in New York City than in Dublin, Ireland; more Italians in New York City than in Rome, Italy; and more Jews in New York City than in Tel Aviv, Israel.

**Ohio:** There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio; every one is man made.

**Pitcarin Island** in Polynesia, is the smallest island with country status at just 1.75 sq. miles/4.53 sq. km.

**Rome, Italy,** was the first city to reach a population of one million people in 133 BC. There is a city called Rome on every continent.

**Siberia** contains more than 25% of the world's forests.

**S.M.O.M.:** The smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M.). Located in the city of Rome, Italy, it has an area of two tennis courts, and as of 2001 has a population of 80—20 people less than the Vatican. It's a sovereign entity under international law, just as the Vatican is.

**Sahara Desert** has a town named Tidikelt, which did not receive a drop of rain for ten years. Technically though, the driest

place on earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic near Ross Island. There has been no rainfall there for two million years.

**Spain** literally means, "the land of rabbits."

**St. Paul, Minnesota,** was originally called Pig's Eye after a man named Pierra "Pig's Eye" Parrant, who set up the first business there.

**Roads:** Chances that a road is unpaved in the U.S.A.: 1%; in Canada: 75%.

**Texas** has the deepest hole ever made in the world. It is as deep as 20 Empire State Buildings but only three inches wide.

**United States:** The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

**Waterfalls:** The water of Angel Falls (the world's highest) in Venezuela drops 3,212 feet (979 meters). They are 15 times higher than Niagara Falls.

So, didn't it feel good to learn something new today??? I have always said that you should learn something new everyday. Unfortunately, most of us are at that age when what we learn today, we forget tomorrow. But give it a shot anyway!

Contributed by Dixie Christenson via email.

## New Members for February

**Sharon and Donald Holl** have lived just a short hop away from the SMS clubhouse for some time, but only recently became aware of us when Kevin and Tarance Beguhl introduced them to the club. Both are interested in all the areas the club has to offer and look forward to exploring its offerings. Neither indicated that they yet have any collections of material.

**Jay Hopkins** is retired and resides in Sacramento. He heard about our club at the *Gem Faire* in Roseville. His interest in minerals is fairly recent so he has not yet acquired a collection, but his interest in attending field trips is sure to get him started. Jay is also willing to help out with the annual show.

Also new to the club are **Sherry and Ed Claborn** of Sacramento. Both are interested in mineralogy, lapidary, geology and field trips, and are willing to help with the social aspects of the club. Ed has a collection of crystals and Sherry has a small tumbler and admits that she has a lot to learn. Ed is self-employed as a general contractor and Sherry is employed by *Sutter Health*. They became aware of the SMS through President Kevin and his wife at *Katerina's Treasures*.

Welcome everybody!

## Do You Have Lithophyllosis???

The word comes from the Latin words *lithos*, meaning rock, *phyl*, meaning an attraction to, and *oisis*, meaning condition. Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age, and it is contagious!





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## Are You a Newsletter Junkie?

Did you know that each month the SMS exchanges bulletins with other rock, mineral, jewelry and fossil clubs throughout California and other places?

Yes, we know that our SMS newsletter, *The Matrix*, is a good one, but limits in size make it impossible to include all the good gossip and tid-bits about the rockhound world. Newsletters and bulletins from other clubs can be a great source of information. They announce local events and activities and often include some very informative articles about our hobbies and rock "addictions". Paging through the variety of newsletters is also a great way to keep informed on what other clubs are doing and is a wonderful source of ideas for our own events and activities. There are often some great stories aligned to the junior world of rockhounding and fossil-collecting, and they often share some wonderful designs, patterns and techniques that you just might find useful in your own creative pursuits.

We receive these exchange bulletins each month both through the U.S. mail and via email to the editor. All newsletters are placed in a box near the front of the clubhouse and usually include copies of the CFMS (state) and AFMS (national) monthly newsletters and the bi-monthly bulletin from our sister-club in Australia. All are available for viewing at any time. Come take a peek at them and see what you're missing!

## Business Meeting Agenda For March 8, 2007

### Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report
- CFMS
- Membership
- Field Trip
- Correspondence
- Shop
  - Expansion wheels and belts for Genie (one "test case")
  - Repairs to the 24" and 30" saws and discussion of area to house them



### Continuing/Old Business

- November Show update
- Educational Meeting topics
- Clubhouse Clean-up & Reorganization

### New Business

- Volunteers for *Gem Faire*
- Volunteers for *Snyder's Pow Wow*
- Historian: Possibility of consolidating old information, scrapbooks, etc.
- Librarian: Small budget to acquire new maps & books

## Fecund Feces

-- By David Tenenbaum

You wouldn't think feces would fossilize. In fact, you'd admit you don't think much about feces at all. Same way around here: We Why Filers are pretty much a flush-and-forget crew.

But Karen Chin thinks so much about fossil feces that she can even pronounce the phrase. In fact, the Stanford University post-doc waxes wistful about waste. Fossilized excrement, she says, "can tell us a lot about population, health, distribution and diet."

Like anyone who studies repulsive stuff, Chin has a ready rationale. "There's a certain intrigue about going out to dig up ancient animals, but some people don't think what I study is all that romantic. But fossil feces can be just as interesting as the study of animals."

Wildlife biologists, she notes, make no apology for studying scats—the feces of live animals. Similarly, coprolites, as archeologists term fossilized feces, convey information about the lifestyles of the dead and buried.

**Scat that had nine lives**—How does something as soft and ephemeral as a turd even become a hard fossil? Before getting fossilized, feces can be eaten, digested by microbes, or washed or blown away. In fact, Chin lists nine separate perils that can prevent a scat from becoming a fossil.

Most feces do disappear before fossilization, which is probably a good thing, when you think about it. But if even a small percentage of feces gets fossilized, that's enough to leave a substantial record. After all, Chin says, "an animal only dies once." But it's gotta go every day of its life..."

When sliced into thin sections and examined under a microscope, coprolites may contain seeds, leaves, wood, mollusks,



A thin slice of coprolite shows fish teeth and fish vertebrae. Guess what this animal ate?

Courtesy Karen Chin.

bones or teeth. The list, obviously, includes lots of the indigestible crud that carnivores devour.

Carnivore dung is also chemically conducive to fossilization, Chin adds. Bones contain calcium, which can combine to form calcium phosphate, the major chemical that,



T. rexcrement. This 2.4 liter object was deposited 65-million years ago in Saskatchewan. From the crunched-up dino bones it contained, scientists figure it's the daily business of a Tyrannosaurus rex. Courtesy Karen Chin and [USGS](http://USGS)

through the process of permineralization, turns soft feces into hard fossils.

The presence of both calcium phosphate and partly digested food remains are diagnostic for coprolites, which generally have that sausage shape characteristic of extrusion. That's the technical term for "squeeze out."

Chin says the absence of calcium phosphate and indigestible crud reveal that many "coprolites" sold at rock and gem shows are bogus.

**Caveat excrement emptor.**—As one of the world's few experts on coprolites, Chin was called in to examine a titanic turd (more than 2.4 liters in volume) deposited in Saskatchewan near the end of the dinosaur age. The scat contained the bones of a young, herbivorous dino -- an itchy-bitsy critter no bigger than a cow. Although carnivorous dinos didn't masticate their food as mammals do (their teeth did not mesh well enough for that), the immense crushing pressure of a Tyrannosaurus rex jaw could have busted the bones, explaining the bone chunks.

**Who dung it?**—Identifying what Chin calls the "poopetrator" is probably the most difficult part of studying coprolites. While Chin observes that you can never know for sure, the giant T. rex poop shows that guesses are based on the fossil context, and on the size and contents of the coprolite itself.

Having read this far, do you now promise to focus more fervently on fossilized feces? If so, you'll know the right answer when Chin (a putrid punster whose quips have been purposely perpetuated previously) asks: "Does fecal matter?"

Found on the internet at: [www.whyfiles.org](http://www.whyfiles.org). Posted May, 2001

## Weather Stone

There is a stone that can tell you the weather. It is called lepidolite, aka the "weather stone", and can tell us whether the weather will be rainy or fair. It is one of the Lithia minerals and is usually a pale gray-blue color, at least on fair days. If this lepidolite specimen is beside an open window, it will turn a pink-like shade if a rainy period threatens. Then when the air clears, it will change back to gray-blue again.

Via *Rock Rollers* 03/97

## VALLEJO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale

Saturday, March 17, 10-5 & Sunday March 18, 10-5

~BEADS~ DEALERS~CRYSTALS~ EXHIBITS~  
~OPAL~ JADE~ FOSSILS~FLOURESCENT DISPLAY~

~ DOOR PRIZE ~ SILENT AUCTION ~  
~ "WHEEL" OF FORTUNE ~

**FREE ADMISSION**

SOLANO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS COUNTY BUILDING, VALLEJO  
Dealer info: 707-745-3255 \$parking\$

## SMS Bulletin Board

Have something to sell or trade? Eager to make a connection with others of like mind or with specific interests or talents? Do you just want to pass on a little piece of information? Let others know! Messages and announcements from members of the SMS or members of other area societies are free of charge. Email the information to [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net) by the 25th of the month for display in the next issue of *The Matrix*.

**LOOKING TO BUY: Old Jade Books.** Contact Stan Heneman by email at [Lakota27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lakota27@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at (916) 363-5011. Will return all inquires. Or you can contact him in person most any Wednesday or Saturday at the clubhouse/shop.

**Needed for the 2007 Show:** Plastic, wood, clay, or other beads for use by children at the show to make necklaces and bracelets. Beads should be large enough that they can be held by small hands and can easily be strung onto heavier string or cord. Contributions may be dropped off at the clubhouse at any time.

**Lockers Available in the Shop** for personal storage of tools and items you are working on. Stop carrying all your projects from home to the shop and back again. Locker rentals are \$10.00 per year, payable to the Shop Steward of the day. Supply your own lock. —And for those of you who currently have a locker from 2006, please remember that rental fees are now due for 2007. Again, pay your rental fee to the Shop Steward of the day. Thank you.

### Lake County "Diamonds" (Moon Tears)

Lake County "diamonds", also called Moon Tears, are semi-precious stones of volcanic origin found nowhere else in the world. While not equal in hardness to real diamonds (7.5-8 compared to a diamond's 10), Lake County diamonds have been used commercially and are capable of cutting glass. They are highly prized for collectors and can be faceted and polished to make beautiful jewelry which is almost as brilliant as real diamonds.

According to one Indian legend, a Pomo Indian chieftain and the moon fell in love. The moon could not stay with the chieftain because she was needed by the people to light the night sky and mark the seasons. She was so sad to leave the chieftain that she wept "moon tears" which became Lake County diamonds.

From *An Introduction to Lake County* on the internet, via *American River Currents* 01/07

\* CRYSTALS \* JEWELRY \* MINERALS \* BEADS \* FOSSILS \* GEMSTONES

45<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Gem and Mineral Show



Roseville Rock Rollers  
Gem and Mineral Society



## "NATURE'S WONDERS"

March 24 & 25, 2007

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm      Sunday 10 am - 4 pm  
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds  
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### Invitation to Rockhounds: Visit the Gold Country!

It won't be long before spring arrives, and our attention turns from scraping off ice crystals to scraping for quartz crystals. Our annual Calaveras gem, jewelry, and mineral show is on March 24-25 at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds just off Highway 49, south of Angels Camp – sometimes referred to as *Frogtown*.

You deserve a fun-filled mini-vacation! Mark your calendar and come spend the day, or better yet, the weekend in *Frogtown* and take in the local sights. It'll probably be too early for jumping frogs, but the daffodils might be in bloom. Visit our show as we'll have lots of exhibits and knowledgeable dealers. Come and trade stories and information with our club members who will be volunteering at the show.

There are plenty of things to do before and/or after coming to our show. You can sample the wine at the local vineyards, such as *Ironstone Vineyards* in nearby Murphys where you can actually view the largest specimen of crystalline gold in the world. If you enjoy spelunking, you can see gravity-defying helictites in *Black Chasm Cavern* near Volcano, or listen for *Yayaly*, a mythical cave-dwelling rock monster in *Moaning Cavern* near Mountain Ranch. We have great rock shops, too. *Stories in Stone* is located in both Angels Camp and Murphys. You'll enjoy visiting *Columbia State Historic Park* where kids can pan for gold at the *Hidden Treasure Gold Mine*. If you want authenticity, then tour *Sutter Gold Mine* in Sutter Creek. If you make arrangements with *Gold Prospecting Adventures* in Jamestown, you can pan for gold for real and keep what you find.

Please consider coming to our show with your family and visiting our local attractions. We would be most honored and delighted to see you. For information, email [tak2me@msn.com](mailto:tak2me@msn.com).

Tak Iwata and Alan Allaffer, *Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society*.

# CO-OP

[www.coop.5u.com](http://www.coop.5u.com)

## Field Trips

Reminders: Call the field trip leader in advance to verify details – climate and weather, tools, safety concerns, clothing, vehicle requirements, etc. Wear your name badge and sign in with the leader. All participants must sign a *Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability* form upon arriving at the meeting site and non-CFMS members must show proof of personal liability insurance. Obey the AFMS Code of Ethics, Land Use Policy, and safety rules. Always use common sense. Additional information may be obtained on the CO-OP web site.

Saturday, March 17 **Volcano, CA – Black Chasm Cavern.** Tour of the cavern sponsored by the *Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society*. Members guests are allowed. Participants should meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot. Tour is underground, so expect cool temperatures; dress warmly and wear sturdy shoes. Admission fee is \$12.50 for adults and \$6.25 for children.

Visit the cavern’s website for further information at: [www.cavernstours.com](http://www.cavernstours.com). Directions available on the CO-OP website. Contact the trip leader, Shaun Chapman, at [fossilman\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:fossilman_1999@yahoo.com) or (916) 879-0122 for information.

Saturday, March 24 (Rainout date: March 31) **Clear Creek BLM Area, CA.** Hosted by the *Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society*, the *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society*, and NBFT, CO-OP members may attend this one-day trip to focus on the known jadeite and plasma agate sites and some possible exploration to a second plasma agate site. For the hard rock area, bring hammers and chisels, eye and hand protection. Also surface collecting – carry containers and small shovels or rakes. Some possible water crossings so bring appropriate footwear. For those that do not want to do heavy hard-rock type digging, exploring the creek bottoms for jasper, agate, petrified wood and other material is an option. Area is semi-developed for toilets but not directly in the collecting areas. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet at the *D-Mart* parking lot on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Gilroy at 7:30 a.m.; group will leave the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to caravan to the collecting area. For further information, contact the trip leader, Dean Welder, at (408) 353-2675 or [wdeanwelder@yahoo.com](mailto:wdeanwelder@yahoo.com).

Watch *The Matrix* for more information on these upcoming trips:

- April 14-15 **Lovelock, NV** for ammonites. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- April 28 **Yerington, NV** for Verde antique, pyrite. *Minnesota Mine. Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society*.
- May 5-6 **Valley Springs, CA** during *Snyder’s Pow Wow*. Moss and opal agate, serpentine and jasper.
- May 12-18 **Glendive, MT** for fossils, petrified wood, Montana moss agate. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- June 9 **Babcock Mountain, Taylorsville, CA** for rose quartz. *Paradise Gem & Mineral Society*.

## SMS Calendar

All events held at the SMS clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

### March

- 8<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. All members welcome!*
- 15<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction Topic TBD*
- 17<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl Standard Cabochon Wrap 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*
- 31<sup>st</sup>—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl Wire Bracelet 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*

### April

- 12<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. All members welcome!*
- 14<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *SMS Show Meeting #2, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.*
- 14<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*
- 19<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction Lisa Zaffran from Teichert Aggregate on the subject of The Largest Mining Industry—Sand and Gravel*
- 28<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*

### May

- 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> *Snyder’s Pow Wow Valley Springs, CA*
- Friday-Sunday
- 10<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. All members welcome!*
- 12<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*
- 17<sup>th</sup>—Thursday *Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction Topic TBD*
- 26<sup>th</sup>—Saturday *SMS Open House & Barbecue 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., SMS Club Grounds*

**Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Spread the word and bring a friend!**

## Upcoming Shows & Events

- March 2-4 **Hayward, CA.** *Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley.* Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Hours: Fri. & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Larry Ham (510) 887-9007, email: [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org).
- March 2-11 **Imperial, CA.** *Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society's "60<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Show".* California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri-Sun. 12-10, Mon-Fri. 4-10. Paul Steward (760) 355-1888.
- March 3-4 **Ventura, CA.** *Ventura Gem & Mineral Society's "The Ventura Gem Show".* Gems, minerals, lapidary arts and fossils. Seaside Park – Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Ed Clark (805) 983-0028, email: [clarkoe@adelphia.net](mailto:clarkoe@adelphia.net).
- March 3-4 **Arcadia, CA.** *Monrovia Rockhounds.* Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Hours: 9-4:30. Jo Anna Ritchey [j.ritchey@verizon.net](mailto:j.ritchey@verizon.net). Website: [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com).
- March 10-11 **Escondido, CA.** *Palomar Gem & Mineral Club.* Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Matt Boeck (760) 216-8971. Email: [mkboeck@hotmail.com](mailto:mkboeck@hotmail.com). Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org).
- March 10-11 **Spreckles, CA.** *Salinas Valley Rock & Gem.* Veteran's Memorial Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> and Llano Streets. Jim Bassett (831) 758-5830. Email: [jbmsc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbmsc@sbcglobal.net).
- March 10-11 **Turlock, CA.** *Mother Lode Mineral Society.* Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Hours: 10-5. Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494, email: [terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com).
- March 10-11 **Vallejo, CA.** *Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society.* Solano County Fairgrounds, I-80 at Hwy 37, County Bldg. Hours: 10-5 both days. Phyllis Malicki (707) 745-3255.
- March 16-18 **San Bernardino, CA.** *Orange Belt Mineralogical Society.* Western Regional League Ballpark, 6707 Little League Drive. Hours: 9-dusk, Sun. 9-4. Al Carrell (951) 961-5988, Emma Rose (951) 288-6182, Lyle (Pappy) (909) 887-3394.
- March 23-25 **Bakersfield, CA.** *San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Mineral Rendezvous.* Indoor/outdoor tailgate. Kern County Fairgrounds, Hours: Fri. 9-8, Sat. & Sun. 9-5. Lewis Helfrich (661) 872-8230 or 323-2663.
- March 24-25 **Angels Camp, CA.** *Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society's Jump for the Gold Gem & Jewelry Show.* Hwy 49. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Tom Reeves (209) 754-4863. Email: [star@volcano.net](mailto:star@volcano.net).
- March 24-25 **Roseville, CA.** *Roseville Rock Rollers.* Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Jim Hutchings (530) 367-5108. Email: [rockrollers@hotmail.com](mailto:rockrollers@hotmail.com). Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com).
- March 31 – April 1 **Torrance, CA.** *South Bay Lapidary Mineral Society.* Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Leslie Neff (310) 318-2170. Email: [lesneff@aol.com](mailto:lesneff@aol.com). Website: [www.palosverdes.com/sblap](http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap).
- April 14-15 **Mariposa, CA.** *Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club.* Mariposa County Fairgrounds. Hours: 10-5 both days. Peggy Ronning (209) 742-7625. Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net).
- April 14-15 **San Jose, CA.** *Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd. Hours: 10-5 both days. Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584, email: [info@scvngms.org](mailto:info@scvngms.org). Club website: [www.scvngms.org](http://www.scvngms.org).
- April 28-29 **Santa Cruz, CA.** *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.* Civic Auditorium, Center and Church Streets. Hours 10-5 both days. Eleanor & Hubert Drake (408) 831-80876. Email: [hmdrake@pacbell.net](mailto:hmdrake@pacbell.net).
- May 4-6 **Valley Springs, CA.** *Snyder's Valley Springs Pow Wow.* 1290 Paloma Road, Valley Springs. Gems, minerals, jewelry, crafts, field trips, Native American dancing, mountain men demonstrations, radio controlled airplanes, antique steam engines. Camping available for a small fee (check in at the registration tent). Betty (209) 772-1265 or Diana (209) 772-1777. Email: [snyderspowwow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:snyderspowwow@sbcglobal.net). Website: [www.valleyspringspowwow.com](http://www.valleyspringspowwow.com).
- May 12-13 **Reno, NV.** *Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems".* Reno Live-stock Events Center, Exhibit Hall. 1350 N. Wells Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. (775) 356-8820. Website: [www.renorockclub.com](http://www.renorockclub.com).
- June 2-3 **La Habra, CA.** *North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society.* La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours 9-5 both days.
- June 5-10 **Roswell, NM.** *AFMS/RMFMS Show and Convention "Gems of Enchantment"* hosted by the *Chaparral Rockhounds*. Convention: June 5-10 at Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites of Roswell, 2000 N. Main Street, Roswell, NM 88201, (505) 622-6430, fax (505) 623-7631. Show: June 7-10, Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 North Main Street, Roswell.

**Mother Lode Mineral Society's**  
Annual  
**ROCK & GEM SHOW**

**MARCH 10 & 11<sup>TH</sup>**

- Dinosaur & Fossil Exhibits
- Speakers
- Kids Activities
- Gem & Mineral Dealers
- Camping
- Great Food



**Turlock Fairgrounds**  
900 North Broadway Turlock CA

For more info:  
[www.motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com)  
Contact: Bud & Terry McMillin 209-524-3494



Sacramento Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 160544  
Sacramento, CA 95816

# The Matrix

March 2007



# Happy St. Patrick's Day!

May we all find our own "Pot of Gold"  
on a Field Trip soon.

In August of 2005, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act which changed the start and end of Daylight Saving Time (DST) as it is observed in (most of) the United States. Beginning this year, DST will now start three weeks earlier and end one week later. Therefore...

**...Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 11!**

(Additional FYI... DST will end on November 4 this year.)

