



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XL111 Number 4

April 2006

## General Meeting

Our scheduled speaker skunked us for the second time so we watched a video on precious stones that was probably more interesting anyway. Thanks to Geary Sheffer for bringing the video from our library. Thanks also to the providers of refreshments: Jan Ferguson, Elaine Von Achen, Jeannie Lingerfelt and Dee Dee Magri. No one brought any rocks to share...please check the calendar and participate. If I have set up a category your rocks don't fit into, bring 'em anyway, no one will object.

*April's meeting* we will have a local paleontologist, **Rex St Ange** who will speak to us about local fossils, particularly the ancestors of the great white sharks, and we will see his short film on them entitled: "Kill Zone." Refreshments will be cookies, and the display theme is picture rocks (rocks that you can see some kind of picture in, be it a landscape, or an animal or whatever.)

## OMS Breakfast

By Wes Lingerfelt

The breakfast was attended today by a whopping number of two people. The crowd included Marty and I and no one else. We decided that it was a good time to strengthen the Father-Son bond and enjoy a good breakfast together. We tried to think of reasons why no one else came to the breakfast. Several ideas came to mind: 1) CRS, 2) It's threatening rain, and 3) additional sack time. All appear to be good reasons but perhaps Jeannie and Jan had the best one. They decided to go to Santa Barbara and take in the Orchid Show at Earl Warren Showground's. I'm wishing I had gone with them. Let's try to generate a little more participation for next month. Perhaps it will be warmer and more conducive to getting out

*Editor's note: We would like to solicit comments about the breakfast. It's purpose is to have a time and place to socialize with other club members, get to*

*know them better, to share braggin' rocks and learn from each other. But we are having poor turnouts anymore, so...what would you like to do? Is it the time? The location? Would you prefer another activity? Perhaps a potluck supper on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evening? Please give this some thought and bring us your ideas. You can call or e-mail any officer or board member (see back page or Red Book for contact information), or speak up at the board or general meeting*

## Carrizo Plains Field Trip

It does look like we're the new rainmakers. Right at the time to get up and go, the thunder and lightning started as well as the rain coming down hard. Oh well. Perhaps we *should* plan a field trip to the Texas panhandle!

## Highway Clean up

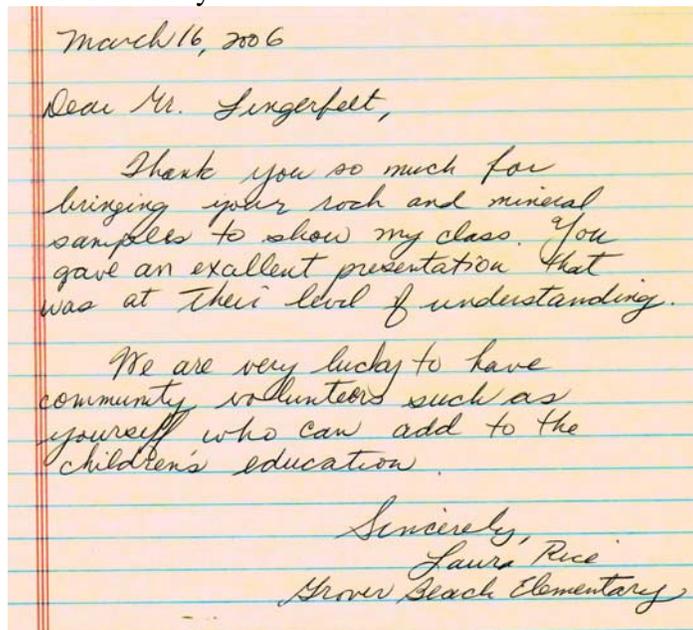
Wes Lingerfelt

The Highway Cleanup took place on March 18th as scheduled since the rain let up long enough for it to happen. Perhaps the potential of rain is what kept the helpers at home by a warm fire. It turned out to be a great (and dry) day for clean up work with 6 people helping out. The crew consisted of Marty, Jeannie and Wes Lingerfelt as well as Don Nasholm, Chuck Ferguson and Bob Bullock in attendance. Several interesting items were found (truly amazing) and lots of bottles and cans were recovered. No drawing occurred after the refreshments as Wes felt the odds were unfairly stacked in favor of the Lingerfelt's. We need more participants to spread out the winner's pool. How about joining in and you also might find some interesting things or perhaps win a prize?

## School Talks

Wes Lingerfelt has three more sessions coming up: one on 28 March, another on 29 March (each one is 120 students) and one on April 29th for some Boy

Scouts. It sure would be nice if someone decided they wanted to go along and see what he does, perhaps even want to do some talks themselves. We always welcome anyone who wants to get involved! We received these Thank you notes from schools he gave talks to recently.



The Carol Harvey Volunteer Network  
... Meeting Educational Needs With Community Resources

652 Orchard Ave. • Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 • 805-471-4447 • FAX 805-471-4447

March 16, 2006

Dear Mr. Sengerfelt,

Thank you so much for speaking to 2nd graders at Grover Beach Elementary. The students had a much better understanding of the rocks and minerals after hearing you and seeing your samples. It was right at their level and fit in very well with what they are learning.

We are so appreciative of the time given by volunteers such as yourself and of your interest in education.

Sincerely,  
Anita Contratto  
Coordinator

### New Member: Joseph Martinez

I am 7 years old and am in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Rice School in Santa Maria. I live with my mom and dad, Elizabeth and Oscar Martinez. I have three sisters: Karina, Alexandria and Mariah. Elaine and John Von Achen are my grandma and papa.

My first field trip was to look for oyster shell fossils. I have started a pretty good collection of

rocks. I am particularly partial to crystals and to dinosaur bones.

I got to go with grandma and papa to Quartzsite in January and we went rock hunting with Wes and Jeannie.

I took some of my rocks to school and gave a talk to the kids in my class.

### Sunshine

Richard Dry came through his heart catheterization with flying colors...no problems there apparently. Stan Ferguson had surgery on his shoulder and is recovering well. Lucky Virgin is back on his feet again, as is Truman Burgess after his knee surgery. Christine Clason is still having severe back problems and may be facing surgery.

### Raffle Thanks

Wayne Mills, Raffle Chairperson

Thanks are due to Ralph Bishop for his continuing and generous donations of dinosaur bone and other materials for our raffle. Thanks are also due Jan Ferguson for a lovely, mounted Chinese Picture Stone that made some lucky person very happy. Apparently the members were happy with the March Raffle as it raised \$103.

### Library Donation

Thanks to Wayne Mills our library has a copy of the book *America's National Parks*. Calling Geary Sheffer and letting him know you would like to read it could check it out. It would be a great resource in planning a vacation and/or rock-collecting trip.

### April Birthdays & Anniversaries

“Happy Birthday” to Jill Nellson, Mary Sausa, Bess Shields, Chuck Ferguson, Bob Bullock, & Dick Shields who are all celebrating birthdays this month. Celebrating anniversaries in April are Richard & Karen Dry, Paul & Sandy Berthelot, John & Elaine Von Achen, and Robert & Mrs. Cochran

### “BREAKER, BREAKER 1-9, WE’RE AT STONEWALL, OVER”

By Ralph Bishop

It was a cold clear morning when the Bronco bucked in front of the 31-½ foot trailer. Tail to the wind, Wes and I, along with the irrepressible Aussie, Paul Howard headed East on CA 166. Our destination was Stonewall Pass, Nevada. We had heard for a number of years about the beautiful multi-colored agatized wood that once littered the ground. This was told to us many times, like while at the Bakersfield Gem Show where Ralph & Helen Smith followed it up with tales of grandeur. “Why, there were logs in

yellow, blue, white, lavender and chocolate scattered hither and yon on the surface,” said Ralph Smith. Illusions of grandeur, like a carrot in front of mules, we were this day led across the Mohave, North on Highway 95 past Beatty, NV to Stonewall in time for a “Bit of Tucker” (The Aussie term for supper). There was a nip in the air as the sun set in the West. We raided whatever cans of gourmet food we could find in the trailer kitchen (Jeannie always kept it well stocked). The international cuisine ranged from chili to Ravioli to “Tin Surprise” (some of the cans were surprises as the wrappers had long ago peeled off. Some unrecognizable material was, with a prayer, given to the coyotes). “That will make them howl,” I said as I closed the trailer door behind me. Out of the dining room window we could see that the desert was as black at night as it was unending during the day. There was the strand of Hiway 95 with an occasional set of lights. They were like little ants on a “scent trail”. We could see the coming and going for 10 or 15 miles in both directions, the road was straight as an arrow. All was lonely and desolate with the exception of one spot. There below us was a junction where a road from Death Valley emerged from the West, Lida Junction. Most of the traffic stopped there before moving on. There at the junction was the twinkle of lights along with a red rotating light on a pole that illuminated what appeared to be a small aircraft runway. “Must be an important social spot, mate,” said Paul sipping his tea (He was after all an English Colonial from Australia: but little did we know....) “Seems every bloke on the tract stops there for tucker” he said. “Yes Sir” I said, “No one is lonely at the Junction”. Wes smiled a big smile. Off to the East we heard some rumbling, bigger rumblings and flashes of light that backlit an entire mountain range. This caught Paul’s attention. “Lightening?” he asked. “I doubt it”, Wes chimed in. “That’s Nellis Air Force base”. “Yeah, Paul” I interrupted, “Area 51 – UFO capital of the US, but Wes can’t talk about it, being a rocket scientist. For him it’s silence or death, mate! But I can tell you it’s a Mother Ship”. Somehow I got the feeling Paul questioned my veracity. (I did not define this as a “True Story” as on occasion I have been known to bloviate).

So after our gourmet dinner and stories about Agate Creek and the Outback, we drifted off to the serenade of coyotes. The howls seemed to have a more urgent, higher pitch than before. I’m sure they found what appeared to be extra hot chili, artichoke hearts and

oysters. I wonder if feeding the wildlife is an ecologically sound practice?



*Wes in upper trench with Pleistocene Cinder Cone to the South. A box of limb casts on the bank.*

Bright and early the next morning we’re all up and raring to go. As we saddled up the Bronco and drove up the road toward the wood zone a magnificent vista appeared. A “Stone Wall” of columnar Basalt topped a huge arching rim on the horizon. The huge jet black “Posts” were stacked vertically, next to each other as far as one could see to the West and broken only by the Pass and Highway 95 to the East. There was no doubt in the mornings long shadows we were there. Stonewall Pass! Below the wall, in stark contrast, was a massive horizontal zone of snow-white volcanic ash. This sequence spoke volumes about the unrelenting volcanoes that occurred during the late Miocene Age. The road then rounded a perfectly formed, nearly un-eroded Cinder Cone that had erupted through the archaic ash formation. This perfect cone, formed about 1 million years ago, was proof there are still volcanic rumblings not too far below. We stopped at several “known” holes and kicked around. One hole in the side of a snow-white draw was where Ralph & Helen Smith had, with the Baldwin Park Gem Club, removed a big log some 15 years before. In the draw below we found a few scattered pieces of wood, remnants of the Grand Log. On the opposite side of the wash Wes found a few pieces with orange and amber growth rings in clearish agate. A few big and ugly brown pieces lay further down the wash, ignored by all past generations of rockhounds. We all had found a short pack of beautifully colored wood but no logs, so we drove East past the Cinder Cone, “road hunting” to no avail. The desert surface was volcanic ash with a scattering of angular and water worn basalt from the “Wall”. As we crossed a hogback I noticed some

dark grayish-black chert like material with the tale-tale conoidal fractures of silicified rock. “Whoa!” I said. The Bronco came to a halt. This mass of gray-black opalitic chert seemed completely out of place and it piqued my curiosity even though it was “Flat Ugly”. The mass was easy to visually trace in the white ash. It extended about 15 yards down slope on either side of the hogback. It was lens-shaped about 5 feet thick where the road crossed it, narrowing and pinching out in the lower reaches of the gullies. Wes and Paul bailed out, scavenging on the North Slope. I got out and picked up a piece of the Ugly Opalite. No wonder the old timers drove over and past the stuff. There wasn’t even a pothole. I had a feeling this day was going to require more than radar and good luck. It was time to call on ... “My Mind”... and my spirit ancestors’ influence. It was time to call on the man who’s influence created my “Radar”. The deductive reasoning of Sherlock Holmes “Watson! The games afoot!” I sat down on the opalitic outcrops and gazed at the expanse of desert. But that is not what I saw. My mind, like a time machine, raced into the past to the Middle Miocene to be exact. Instead of parched desert I saw the well-watered savannah that existed before the Sierra Nevada Range was elevated by plate tectonics, cutting off the rainfall to the interior of the American West. The rock in my hand was eerily similar to the agatized oil shale found all over the Central Coast of California. Laminated, Carbon? A clue! Wes came up with some really beautiful chips of pink, white and yellow rock. There was a “pretty face” somewhere here but I was still in a cerebral mode – “Pure Science!” (“Pure science” will be coming up in a Winnemucca, NV story later)

There were massive grasslands, Rhinos and Camels (Evidence! Bruno Benson found these fossils in the ‘60’s,) and a series of lakes. In the highlands, now solid eroded rock, were forests of evergreens and lakeside groves of deciduous forests. Evidence: Identified woods from “The Sump”, Tonopah, Tuscarora, Cherry Creek, Elko, Gabbs, and McDermitt. All lake deposits – AH! Another clue. I felt a jarring rumble through the seat of my Miocene pants and then I saw it – a massive cloud of searing ash bearing down from the North on the lake studded savannah. One that made the eruption of Mt. St Helens look like a burp. Below me the ashen cloud swept over the grassland and blasted the lakeside forest into the lake leaving only a scene reminiscent of the Mississippi Coast after hurricane Katrina.

Then all was quiet except for the prevailing north wind. A lens-shaped deposit, laminated carbon tainted Opalite, pure white ash and no other geological features. I knew! I walked down slope where the boys had started digging. Among the ugly pieces there was a number of “pretty faces”. I told them my theory. Wes nodded approvingly but Paul had contrary thoughts (I wondered if all colonial Australians were also contrarians?). So I said, “OK, Paul what is it then?” He didn’t know. This stirred my mind in a positive way. “OK, let’s look!” Dropping down to the “pinch” I jerked out an endangered creosote bush, and there it was. I had hit a straight flush with the “River Card”. There peeking out of the soil was a beautiful agate, round, the size of my arm, and as I shook it loose from the ash, I found it was attached to a piece of the dark laminated carbon lens. YEOW! Immediate gratification. I walked up-slope. “What’s that?” Wes asked. “Proof” I said, as I brushed off the loose ash. As I did the outside texture of the agate saw the light of day for the first time in at least 10 million years. I had dug hundreds of these before but this one was special. Then another swipe of the hand revealed a “Knot”. Limb cast! All these years the old timers had drove over this carbonized mass looking for large drift logs. This gray-black ugly mass represented a flotsam mass of vegetation blown into a lake by the blast of ash, and was blown to the leeward bank of the lake to be covered by subsequent ash falls.

Although Paul was skeptical, Wes was glad to abandon the upper hole (even though more



*Once a lowly colonial bloke, currently Sir Paul Howard, KRO, (Royalty in the hole) and the Rocket Scientist. Lower center, limb casts in white ash. Upper right, UFO base behind horizon. Upper left, Amy's just over the hill.*

Pink and yellow was showing) to Paul. We attacked the virgin “pinch” and the limbs rolled out. Suffice to say that by the end of the day we had badgered the northern slope and had filled the Bronco with limb

casts and beautiful pink and yellow pieces of the flotsam mass.

By the time we got back to camp we noticed our gas tank was low so the decision was made to go to Goldfield, about 15 miles north on US 95, and top off the tank. Traveling North, we passed the “lights” we saw at Lida Junction. Paul piped up “Mate, I thought there would be a pub at the junction but the sign says “Cottontail Ranch”. “They raise Rabbits Paul”, I said. Wes just chuckled. We pulled into the near ghost town of Goldfield. Wind blown clapboard and stone buildings spoke of the long ago grandeur of this important mining hub. What was most memorable though was the sign in the front window of an abandoned building next to the gas station. It read, **“If you’re quiet and listen carefully you can hear the Chevy’s rusting”**. How profound! With that we returned to camp and finished off another gourmet dinner, the coyotes howled for more. At a lull in the conversation, Wes turned on the CB radio. That’s when it happened. “Breaker, Breaker 1-9, this is Amy, Over!” Now dear readers, never before or since have I ever heard such a seductive voice, like warm honey engulfing the airwaves. My heart began to pound, my breath, I, I...and the angels voice continued. “All you truckers out there this is Amy at the Cottontail Ranch, Lida Junction”. “This is your number one safety stop in western Nevada, our coffee is free, Come back!” “Oh my Gawd, that “Sheila” is from the Ranch!” Paul said. I was speechless. Wes chuckled. Just then the radio crackled, “Breaker, Breaker, this is the Tennessee Tom Cat, Oh Baby, Oh Baby, I’m a comin’, I’m a comin’, Amy comeback!” “What’s your 10-20 big boy?” (Where are you in normal English). “I’m headed out of Wendover darlin’, my pedal’s to the metal and my tires are smokin’, come back!” Crackle, Crackle “I can hardly wait T-T, the lights will be on and the coffee’s hot at the Cottontail Ranch safety stop at Lida Junction, over”. “Where’s Wendover mate?” Paul asked. “Good God, Paul it’s all of 400 miles away, on the Stateline of Utah and northeastern Nevada”. That’s the longest, loneliest stretch of highway in the whole Western US. There are only two towns, Elko and Ely and they aren’t much. I hope he makes it”, I said. “Free coffee mates, sounds good to me” Paul said. Now Paul always has been a “Frugal bloke” and at that time, a single man of means (little did we know that in the future he would...). Wes piped up, “I wonder how

the FCC likes the gals chumming the truckers in. I think the young lady is skating on thin ice,” he said. “I don’t think this kind of commercial advertisement is legal. Ralph, you ever think Amy might be 450 pounds. Laying back in a recliner in her worn out terry cloth robe drinking a stale beer?” “Not possible,” I replied. With that I picked up the CB Mike, “Breaker, Breaker, Amy this is Bishop, come back”. Crackle, Crackle. “OH!” with a sigh and dripping with nectar “I love Mormons, have we been together before?” “No”, I said, “I’m a gemstone miner up on Stonewall Pass, look out your south window and you’ll see our lights”. A pause, then some crackles, “Yes, I see you! Do you have a big gemstone for me? I’m here at the safety stop, free coffee remember, at the Lida Junction!” More crackles on the radio. “Amy, darlin, this is Big Ben heading North out of Beatty, are my vouchers still good for that coffee, come back?” Crackle. “First come, first served here at the Cottontail Ranch, B-B, But for you I’ll keep it warm and waiting, over”. I was crushed. “You snooze, you loose, Ralph” smiled Wes. “Breaker, Breaker, Amy this is Bishop, over”. Crackle, a squeaky voice came back, “Amy’s busy now Bishop but I looove gemstones. This is Ginny, come back. Remember, there’s free coffee at the Cottontail Ranch, your safety stop at Lida Junction”. Well, Wes was right, “I snoozed, I loosed!” So there we sat, 3 colonial boys in the desert after a successful dig at Stonewall. Two Americans and an Aussie, but little did we know at the time that our bunkmate was destined to become a knight of the realm for his furtherance of the lapidary arts. Now he is the author of an excellent book (**Fossicking for Queensland Agates**) and most recently, a mine owner in the Agate Creek District of Australia. Our old bunkmate is a world traveler and knight of the realm, Sir Paul Howard, KRO. Our trip into the desert with Sir Paul will go down in history as one of our finest hours. On top of all that, it began to snow as we packed up to leave our campsite. It was a real thrill to watch a grown man play in the snow for the first time. It seems down under Paul had never had the chance before. It must have been a tremendous and memorable trip for him as well.

*Ralph will have specimens from this trip, as well as other petrified wood specimens at the next meeting, so don’t miss it!*

## Rockhound Rendezvous-2006

By Wayne Mills, Ore-cutts roving reporter

Sue and I made a quick trip over to Bakersfield on Saturday morning March 18. Had a pleasant drive over CA166, and pulled into the show about 11:00 after a two and a half hour drive. The day was mostly gray, and we got a few sprinkles, but fortunately we were in the car most of the time. Unfortunately, we were looking for something that did not want to be found. When we unfolded Sue's new large tent, put up once before, we found the hock cords that held the tent supports together had broken, making it impossible



to put the tent up. So we coupled looking for new cords with a visit to the Buena Vista Museum (where I returned the

fossil turtle skull they had loaned me). Also had a few minutes to check out the complete Allodesmus's sp. (15 million year old sea lion) skeleton (cast) the museum has mounted. Finally, we got a roll of nylon cord that along with a couple of Boy Scout knots (bowline) did the trick. Then, (about 2:30 p.m.), I was ready to cruise the show.

This show was Lew Helfrich's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockhound Rendezvous, and his first as president of Southern San Joaquin Valley Rockhounds. It was also the weekend of his 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-way to go Lew! Saw several dealers whom I recognized, and naturally



several of them were from the Bakersfield area. Stopped by Manny and Dahlia Hernandez's booth in time to see them interviewed for an article that appeared in Sunday's Bakersfield paper. Checked out the booth from the museum where I picked up a

part of a large Allodesmus tooth for a buck. Stopped by the raffle table several times, but I didn't find anything there I couldn't live without.

They did have some great prizes for their version of our Treasure Chest, including a GPS Unit, a DVD Player, some cool stone planters, handmade quilts, walkie talkies, and several other goodies, and a Country Store that Sue and I found a few books and a plant at, but my main objective was looking for more raffle goodies.

Another feature of Lew's show was that every show visitor got a free ticket for his twice-hourly drawings that awarded prizes given by the dealers. The drawing kept things interesting, but we were not lucky enough to be selected. (Here is some of the display of New World Gems and Minerals from Bakersfield). Another drawing that I was tempted to go for was the one for a free trip to Sharks tooth Hill. Chances were sold for a dollar apiece, and 15 lucky folks (out of more than 100 tickets) got to follow Bob Ernst, the owner to his diggings.

Sunday Afternoon, we had a tough choice to make. Indian Fry Bread, or Cajun Fare. Next year, I think I'll be going with the Cajun, but the Fry bread was really good, and I have half left over for a future lunch or dinner! I gotta' hand it to Lew. He had perhaps the best food vendors of any show I have been to. And I have been to a lot!

Another acquaintance at the show was Ishmael Sanchez who has been leader of the Kern Co. clubs Mineral Mites

(pebble pups) for about 14 years. He has done a GREAT job with those kids, many of whom are full-grown 'hounds now. There was a new dealer at the



show too, with one of the most colorful mineral and fossil displays I have seen. I tried to recruit him for our show. This was his first show, though he has been collecting for about 22 years. His business is called New World Gems.



Another familiar face was Millie Morris, the Native American woman/Storyteller who Sue and I talked to extensively last year. She had

fascinating stories of her travels among native peoples all over the US, and had wonderful and authentic Native American jewelry for sale too.

I have to include a couple of pets we met there too.



A Great Dane and A Mexican Hairless that is



too "cute" not to. All in all, it was a really

nice show. Gave me an opportunity to get a few more goodies for the raffle too! You'll see!

## **Board Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA. March 7, 2006**

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Board members present were: Bob Bullock, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Bill Hood, Debbie Hood, Gary Sheffer, Sylvia Nasholm, Dee Dee Magri and Elaine Von Achen.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published in the March 2006 newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Bill Hood has had a virus and has not been feeling well. Luck Virgin has been having some trouble with his knees.

CFMS Director: Wes Lingerfelt said to read the CFMS newsletter on line you can do a search by entering cfmsinc.org.

Adopt-a-Highway: The next OMS Cleanup will be Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 a.m. Meet at the intersection of Highway 101 and 166.

Education: No news.

Monthly Raffle: Wayne Mills reported he had turned in \$75.00 from raffle sales.

Field Trips: The next field trip will be to the Carrizo Planes on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone will meet at the Mussell Sr. Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

Correspondence:

Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club, San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, and South Bay Lap. & Mineral Society, Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club and Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. We also received notice of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's annual Jackpot of Gems show May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Reno (fliers enclosed) as well as Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society's annual Eastern Sierra Gem and Mineral Show May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> in Bishop (fliers enclosed).

There was a thank you from Friends of Sun Valley Indian School thanking us for labels, certificates and box tops. We received an invitation to the Gem Faire in Santa Barbara held February 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business:

Elaine Von Achen reported that she had tried to contact Steve Corbette from the Santa Maria Times and that he was no longer with them. He was going to do an article on our club and we were going to invite him to a meeting. It was suggested that Shirley Contreras might be interested and Elaine is to contact her.

New Business:

Elaine Von Achen read an application for membership from Joseph Martinez. A motion was made by Bob Bullock and seconded by Wes Lingerfelt that we accept Joseph as a new member. Motion passed.

President, Robert Bullock, adjourned the meeting at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Von Achen,  
Secretary, OMS

## **General Meeting of OMS Ellwin Mussell Senior Center March 14, 2006**

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Lee Reyburn gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

We had 35 members and 4 guests present. Guests were Gloria Dana, Art Tower, Dennis Winn and Teri Winn.

Refreshment for tonight is pie, which is provided by Dee-Dee Magri, Elaine Von Achen, Jeannie Lingerfelt and Jan Ferguson.

Minutes of the March 7, 2006 Board Meeting were read by Elaine Von Achen and approved as read.

The treasurers' report was read by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

#### Correspondence:

Newsletters were received from Capistrano Valley Rock and Mineral Club, San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club, Conejo Gem & Mineral, So. Bay Lap & Mineral Society and the Ventura Gem & Mineral Club. We also received notification for the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's annual Jackpot of Gems show May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Reno (fliers enclosed) and the Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society's annual Eastern Sierra Gem and Mineral Show May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> in Bishop (fliers enclosed). We received a membership card from the American Lands Access Association as well as a thank you from CFMS for Ralph and Helen Smith Memorial.

#### Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Debbie Hood announced that she had heard from Karen Dry reporting that Richard has a heart catheterization and would call with more information when she had it. Truman Burgess is back at the meeting and doing well. Lucky Virgin is feeling better as well.

Field Trip: Bob Bullock announced that the field trip to the Carrizo Planes on March 11<sup>th</sup> had been cancelled due to rain.

Raffle: Wayne Mills showed some samples of the items for tonight's raffle and said we had donations from Ralph Bishop and Jan Ferguson.

Scholarships: Wayne Mills reported that money had been sent to Cuesta College and to Hancock College.

Education: Wayne Mills gave a talk to a class at Judkins School.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt had received notification that as of July 1, 2006 there would be an increase in fees for any change in the tax status. Currently the fee is \$300 for \$10,000 or less and \$900.00 for anything over \$10,000 in annual revenues.

#### Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

Bob Bullock reported that we had received a request from Carl Marsee for anyone interested in helping with "Operation CUTRR (Clean Up The Ridge Route) on Saturday April 8, 2006. If you might be interested, please contact Elaine Von Achen for more information.

Debbie Hood asked if everyone is receiving his or her newsletters.

Gary Sheffer announced that our Library had received a donation from Wayne Mills of a book on America's National Parks. Gary has videotapes on gold prospecting and books on wire wrapping available to check out tonight.

We have a quartz crystal cluster as well as some mineral specimens for the Abused Children's Raffle tonight. Sylvia Nasholm won the crystal cluster and Terri Winn won the mineral specimens.

The program for the evening is a video on Emeralds, Diamonds, Rubies and Pearls. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send e-mail to [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

#### Fun Web Sites To Check Out-Agates

<http://www.greatcabochons.com/>

<http://www.ganoksin.com/index.html>

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/geology/digging/agate.html>

[http://www.memphisgeology.org/g\\_agates.html](http://www.memphisgeology.org/g_agates.html)

<http://rockhounds.com/rockgem/articles/agates.html/>

[http://www.amonline.net.au/geoscience/earth/gallery\\_agates.cfm](http://www.amonline.net.au/geoscience/earth/gallery_agates.cfm)

<http://www.agateswithinclusions.com/>



Our Mascot



A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, ORE-CUTTS (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

## OMS Purpose

Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1956, and was named after William Orcutt, a geologist and Civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District manager for Union oil Company in 1888. In 1989, Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship, and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.

### 2006 OMS Officers

Pres.	Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Pres. Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

### 2006 OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Jill Nelson (ex-officio)	(805) 925-2550

## Ore-Cutts Editors

Deborah Hood	(805) 481-6860
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

**OMS Webmaster** - Wes Lingerfelt -929-3788

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: *Stonewall Pass* by Ralph Bishop  
*Rockhound Roundup* by Wayne Mills

**OMS Membership** (dues) are \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

## April 2006 Calendar

Tuesday April 4, 2006 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday April 8, 2006 8:30 AM - 5:00PM	Field Trip to Figueroa Mnt. - Serpentine, Agate and Jasper. Bring lunch and water. Short hikes possible. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details
Tuesday April 11, 2006 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: TBD</li> <li>• Display: Picture Rocks</li> </ul> Refreshment: Cookies
Saturday April 15, 2006 9:00 AM -11:00	OMS Storage Locker Cleanup. Contact Geary Sheffer at 925-8009 for details.
Saturday April 22, 2006 8:15 AM - 9:15AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast - "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

## May 2006 Calendar

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program-TBA</li> <li>• Display-Flower rocks</li> </ul> Refreshments Cakes-
Saturday, May 13 2006 8:00 a.m. to?? p.m.	OMS Field Trip to Big Sandy meets at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Bring a lunch and bottled water.
Saturday May 20, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday May 27, 2006 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.

## April Show Calendar

### April 1 2006, Porterville, CA

Porterville Gem & Mineral Society Play Day Hosting  
Diamond Pacific Tool Corp. 318 N. Kessing St. Hours:  
10 - 4 Rob Milner (559) 359-6174 Email  
[rdmilner@verizon.net](mailto:rdmilner@verizon.net) Play Day Info flyer

### April 1-2 2006, San Jose, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Santa  
Clara County Fairgrounds 344 Tully Road Hours: 10 -  
5 both days Marc Mullaney 408 - 971-6651  
Email [GEOLOGISTM@aol.com](mailto:GEOLOGISTM@aol.com)

### April 8-9 2006, Paradise, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Club Gems & Jewelry Show  
Veterans Memorial Hall Skyway & Elliott Road Hours:  
Sat 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Jim & Shirley Thompson (530)  
872-1846 Email [shirley1846@comcast.net](mailto:shirley1846@comcast.net)

### April 22-23 2006, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley  
Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H Hours: 9 - 5 both  
days Pamela Birge (661) 264-3502 Email  
[birgep@att.net](mailto:birgep@att.net) Show Website:  
[www.geocities.com/av\\_gem](http://www.geocities.com/av_gem)

### April 29-30 2006, Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Corner of Center & Church  
Streets Hours: 10 - 5 both days Sallee Brumbaugh (831) 336-  
5662

## June 2006 Calendar

Tuesday June 6, 2006 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are Welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday, June 10, 2006 10:00 a.m. to 3:30p.m.	OMS Annual Bar-B-Q-Potluck at Pioneer Park 10000 W Foster Road, Santa Maria. 11:00am – 3:30pm.
Saturday June 24, 2006 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc**  
**PO Box 106**  
**Santa Maria, CA. 93456-0106**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED