



Ore-Cutts

Volume LV Number 4

April 2021



The Prez Box

April 2021

Spring has sprung! We are having gorgeous weather. (could use rain, but at least we got some.)

Jeanne and I got our final covid shot Monday. We're not fully immune yet (another week or so) but we are on our way. I'm hoping others can get the shots as we will have a better chance of getting together for our meetings.

Since we have been somewhat inactive for the last year, the Board thinks it may be a good idea to keep the current officers (if willing) until 2022. I think this may be a good idea, but I would like to hear from our membership and our parliamentarian.

We will be having the scheduled board meeting on April 6, 2021 at 7:00pm. We will still have to meet remotely (teleconference). Call **1-612-746-7377**. When the machine answers, it will ask for a conference code. Enter **323428**

The general meeting for April is canceled due to Covid shutdown. I am planning our first regular meeting for May, as Covid allows..

The breakfast for April is scheduled for 8:30 am on April 24th at the Denney's in Santa Maria.

Highway cleanup will be held on May 8 at the SE corner Route 101/166 East at 8:00 am. I am hoping that we can have a good turnout.

With the vaccines out, and the government

pushing to get them out to people, I am hoping that we will be able to get things going again!

Wayne got some documents from Nipomo High School on having the show. The board looked at the requirements, and while the school would allow a show, they would require the club to sign up to ensure that social distancing is maintained.

With a couple of thousand people attending both indoors and outdoors, we didn't think we could do it. The show is canceled for 2021. (See Board Minutes Page 5.)

Be healthy and take care of yourselves.

Bill

**Bill Brown
OMS President**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

BIRTHDAYS

Kim Noyes	4/15	γ
Katherine Nybo	4/19	γ
Robert Bullock	4/21	♂

ANNIVERSARIES

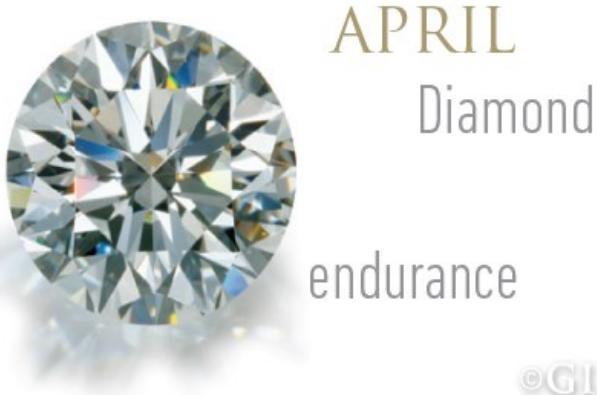
John & Elaine Von Achen	4/24
Karen Dry	4/03

Congratulations! If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please write your important dates down and give them to Wayne so they will be included in the next edition (January 2021)

April Birthstones

There are two birthstones for April are: Diamond and Clear Quartz.

Our love for the April birthstone started in India, where diamonds were gathered from the country's rivers and streams. Traded as early as the fourth century BCE, diamonds were coveted by royalty and the wealthy. Later, caravans brought Indian diamonds, along with other exotic merchandise, to medieval markets in Venice. By the 1400s, diamonds were becoming fashionable accessories for Europe's elite.



Text and picture from GIA.com

Clear Quartz is the main alternate for diamond for the April birthstone. Herkimer diamonds are a good example of clear quartz!

Diamonds

Category	Diamond
Hardness	10
Formula	C
Crystal system	Diamond Cubic
Crystal class	Repeating
Impurities (for color)	Nitrogen for yellow diamonds. Other colors may be deformation of crystal structure.

Diamonds are valued for their beauty and hardness. You won't ever scratch your diamond!

Commercial quantities of diamonds have been found at two locations in the US. The Kelsey Lake Diamond Mine near Fort Collins Colorado is closed due to legal problems. The other has been converted to a state park known as Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas where you can dig by paying a fee. Anything you find is yours.

Diamonds and potential diamondiferous rocks have been found in hundreds of locations in the US, so there is a potential for a commercially significant discovery of diamonds in the US.

Clear Quartz

Chemical Classification	Silicate
Streak	Colorless (harder than the streak plate)
Luster	Vitreous
Diaphaneity	Transparent to translucent
Cleavage	None - typically breaks with a conchoidal fracture
Mohs Hardness	7
Specific Gravity	2.6 to 2.7
Chemical Composition	SiO_2
Crystal System	Hexagonal
Uses	Glass making, abrasive, foundry sand, gemstones

Quartz is the most abundant mineral found at the earth's surface. It is a compound of Silicon and Oxygen (SiO_2). Clear quartz is normally found in hexagonal crystals that may be either single or dual terminated. The crystals can be faceted or used as raw or polished crystals.

Herkimer diamonds are double-terminated quartz crystals discovered within exposed outcrops of dolomite in and around Herkimer County, New York and the Mohawk River Valley. Not actually diamonds, the "diamond" in their name is due to both their clarity and natural faceting - crystals possess double termination points and 18 total faces (six on each point, six around the center). Because the first discovery sites were in the village of Middleville and in the city of Little Falls, respectively, the crystal is also known as a **Middleville diamond** or a **Little Falls diamond**.



Either diamonds or quartz are beautiful durable gemstones that can provide enjoyment for many years!

BITS AND BYTES

Can Gems Really Come from Space?

Rocks that fall from the sky have frightened and fascinated people throughout history. They immediately generate curiosity and have a scientific significance. They are made of extremely rare materials that interest scientists, collectors, and curious people alike.

Many meteorites and impactites are small enough and attractive enough to be used as gems in the same condition in which they fell from the sky. Iron meteorites are alloys of iron and nickel that can be cut and polished into beautiful gems or fashioned into the metal parts of jewelry. Pallasites are stony-iron meteorites that contain colorful peridot (olivine) crystals that can be cut into gems. Impactites are often colorful glasses that can be faceted, cut into cabochons, or carved into small sculptures.

Gems from Space! Peridot Moldavite Tektite Desert Glass (geology.com) :Hobart M. King, PhD, GIA Graduate Gemologist

Gem hunters flock to tiny Queensland town after severe flood brings sapphires to the surface

From [Gem hunters flock to tiny Queensland town after severe flood brings sapphires to the surface /Australian Broadcasting Corp \(ABCs\)](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-15/gem-hunters-flock-to-tiny-queensland-town-after-severe-flood-brings-sapphires-to-the-surface/12900000)
/By Jasmine Hines

Floodwaters have subsided in Sapphire, and fossickers are flocking to the tiny outback Queensland town, hoping to strike it rich.

The Sapphire Gemfields is one of the largest sapphire-rich areas of the world and covers almost 900 square kilometres.

The flood in mid-March inundated seven properties, but it also washed away the top layer of soil, giving fossickers a helping hand to unearth a precious gem or two.

NSW Tourist Meredith Etheridge visited the Gemfields for "a little bit of a poke around".

With a geography-fanatic father, she knew the rain would help her hunt for precious stones.

"I grew up with rocks around, and I was the kid who always had rocks in her pockets," Ms Etheridge said.

Gems & Gemology, Fall 2020, Vol. 56, No. 3

Blue Inclusion in Rock Crystal Quartz

Nathan Renfro



Figure 1. This 118.16 ct polished modified cube of rock crystal quartz contains an interesting tuft of blue needles, which may be tourmaline. Photo by Robert Weldon; courtesy of Mike Bowers.



Figure 2. This tuft of blue needles has nucleated on a quartz crystal and tapers toward the end opposite the core quartz crystal. Although too deep to be identified by Raman

An interesting tuft of light blue needles was recently observed in a polished modified cube of rock crystal quartz (figure 1). The needles nucleated on a nearly invisible quartz crystal with the tuft tapering toward the opposite end (figure 2). When the tuft was examined looking parallel to the optic axis of the host quartz using cross-polarized light, the small included quartz crystal surrounded by the blue needles stood out in high relief due to the crystallographic misalignment with the host quartz. It was also interesting to note that the included quartz was perched at the apex of a twinned sector of the host quartz (figure 3). While the needles were located too deep within the quartz to conclusively identify with Raman spectroscopy, their appearance (in the author's experience) suggests they may be pale blue tourmaline. This beautiful inclusion in rock crystal quartz is a striking example of a microfeature in a gem cut to showcase an inclusion.

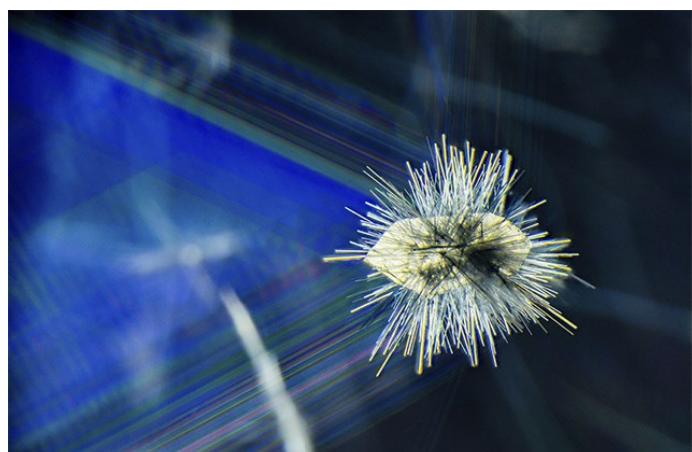


Figure 3. When the host quartz is examined looking parallel to the optic axis, the core quartz crystal stands out in high relief and is interestingly located at the apex of a twinned sector of the host. Photomicrograph by Nathan Renfro; field of view 9.32 mm. Courtesy of Mike Bowers.

News you can Use

CAMP PARADISE 2021

Camp Paradise has informed us that they are open and operational, so we are planning on having our classes this year. The dates are from August 22nd to August 27th , and August 29th to September 4th . We will have safety protocols in place to the extent that they are practical. We hope to see everybody there.

Tony and Sandie Fender

CFMS Show 2021

The June 2021 CFMS show has been canceled.

Some suggestions for cleaning mineral specimens

Caution should be used when cleaning SELENITE and GYPSUM. They may be washed in a weak solution of lux or ivory soap. Avoid detergents with bleach.

....Rockhound Rambling

ALGAE and LICHEN may be REMOVED by soaking in a solution of ammonia and water. Wash thoroughly.

....Del Air Bulletin To

CLEAN OUT A FRESHLY CUT GEODE, use Dow Bathroom Cleaner. Then use damp facial tissues to fill the cavity while lapping the stone.

....AFMS Newsletter

Clean stones with detergent and water and/or alcohol BEFORE DOPPING for better ADHERANCE.

....AFMS Newsletter

TO CLEAN QUARTZ CRYSTALS — Amethyst also ~ Cover them with fresh vinegar to remove the carbonates. Allow to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash well, then place them in washing-type ammonia for 8 to 12 hours. Remove, rinse well and air dry. As vinegar is an acid DO NOT PUT IT ON the Crystal Centers of SEPTARIAN NODULES! The vinegar will eat away the inside material.

....CFMS Newsletter

Safety

I'm trying to include some basic safety articles in this section of the bulletin. We spend a fair amount of time in the workshop or studio, and I think it's a good idea to review some safety items. I know that I grow complacent, and that's when I get hurt.

Burns

The best advice on burns in the shop is don't get them. Unfor-

tunately, burns are something that seem to happen no matter how we try to prevent them.

For major burns (larger than about 3 inches in diameter, appear charred or have white, brown, or black patches, are deep, or appear brown dry or leathery (paraphrased from Mayo Clinic article on burns).

If there is any doubt, contact your doctor or other medical professional.

For major burns, immediately contact a medical professional or dial 911. Immediate care is important.

Burns keep burning even after the cause has been removed. Hold the burn under cool running water to cool the burn and prevent further damage. For large burns, don't immerse in water, but cover the burn with clean damp bandages or cloths .

Additional items important in many first aid situations are:

Safely remove the person from the cause of the burn. For electrical burns, make sure power is off!

Check to assure person is breathing.

Remove jewelry, belts and other restrictive items (burns swell)

Elevate the burned area above heart level if possible.

Watch for shock.

For minor burns: (from [Burns: First aid - Mayo Clinic](#))

- **Cool the burn.** Hold the burned area under cool (not cold) running water or apply a cool, wet compress until the pain eases.
- **Remove rings or other tight items from the burned area.** Try to do this quickly and gently, before the area swells.
- **Don't break blisters.** Fluid-filled blisters protect against infection. If a blister breaks, clean the area with water (mild soap is optional). Apply an antibiotic ointment. But if a rash appears, stop using the ointment.
- **Apply lotion.** Once a burn is completely cooled, apply a lotion, such as one that contains aloe vera or a moisturizer. This helps prevent drying and provides relief.
- **Bandage the burn.** Cover the burn with a sterile gauze bandage (not fluffy cotton). Wrap it loosely to avoid putting pressure on burned skin. Bandaging keeps air off the area, reduces pain and protects blistered skin.
- **If needed, take an over-the-counter pain reliever,** such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others), naproxen sodium (Aleve) or acetaminophen (Tylenol, others).

Note: I'm not a doctor. I can't give medical advice. This is from available information and may change as new things are discovered. Use common sense and make sure to contact a doctor or other medical professional for any questions.

**Meeting Minutes
ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
Teleconference
March 2, 2021 (7:00 PM)**

Called to order at 7:10 p.m. 2021

Board Members present: Bill and Jeanne Brown, Wayne Mills, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith and Renee Sutcliffe. **Members absent:** Betty Campbell, Dick Bazzell, Debbie Hood

MINUTES: (Wayne) Will be contained in the March Bulletin when it comes out.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Jeanne)

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne) 2 Cards from the Santa Barbara Gem Faire that was held in February, Domain name registration, 3 letters from the Salvation Army requesting donations, 2 cards from Chase Bank for Bill, December and February Rockonteur for Bill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin- Don't have bulletin out yet. It was finished but had to be re-done due to computer failure.

CFMS- (Renea) No report. Wayne gave his report that was made for the Santa Lucia Club.

Membership – (Wayne) I met a potential member from Orcutt at the Kim Noyes field trip the weekend before our meeting.

Field Trip – (Sally) We may be getting closer to a field trip as Wes has had his first COVID Shot. Kim Noyes has been leading some ad hoc, non-sponsored, local field trips, watch for notices in your e-mail.

Adopt-a-Highway – (Wayne) Highway cleanup will be held on Saturday March 13 at 8:00 am on the SE corner of the US101/Hwy 166 East interchange.

Annual Awards Banquet: Madonna has our deposit. We have the date (December 11, 2021) scheduled at the Madonna Inn.

Breakfast- Due to COVID and weak to no attendance, the Board decided to cancel the Breakfasts until further notice.

Education (Wayne) Bill listed some great geology courses in the February 2021 Bulletin. Members are encouraged to check them out. Members are also encouraged to share any great rockhound sites or programs they come across with the bulletin editor.

Library- (Alexis) No report

Sunshine—Several of the Board members have re-

ceived their first COVID shots.

Scholarship (Jeanne) We will not be giving out a scholarship until we have our show.

Show—(Bill) Since the School District required that we make assurances of social distancing in our application to use the high school, and since that is difficult to impossible with 2000 visitors indoors and out, the Board decided to cancel our 2021 show plans.

Old Business- None.

New Business- None.

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

General Meeting March 9, 2021

The March General Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus shutdown.

Respectfully Submitted

Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary



The Subway—Zion National Park Imgur.com

OMS CALENDAR

April

Tuesday, April 6
7:00 p.m. OMS Board Meeting, Teleconference. See Prez Box.

Tuesday, April 13
7:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center
General meeting (Canceled due to COVID)

May

Tuesday, May 4
7:00 p.m. OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room or Teleconference.

Tuesday, May 11
7:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center
General Meeting. I'm putting this here because I'm Optimistic. May be Canceled

Saturday, May 8
Highway Cleanup
SE Corner Hwy101/166 Junction.

2020 / Interim 2021-OMS OFFICERS

President	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2020 / Interim 2021 -OMS BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Bazzell	(805) 757-9123
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783

CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. **OMS Membership Chairperson is: Jeanne Brown**

OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org> or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org.

Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher

Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811	bb0818@hotmail.com
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Well, this is #4. Starting to get a handle on Publisher software! Please remember that I would be happy if anyone wanted to take a shot at it. Until then, I'll try to keep up something that we can at least use.

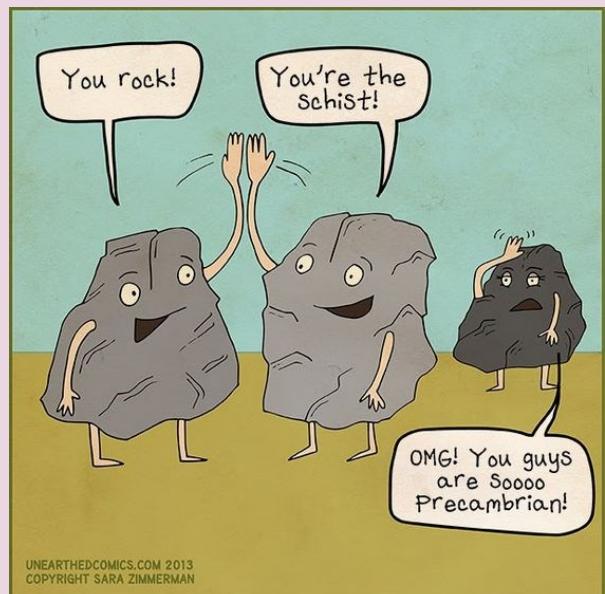
Note: If you want to contribute to the Abused Children's fund, I'm sure Jan would appreciate you sending donations via US Mail!

Check-out the OMS Web page at: omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

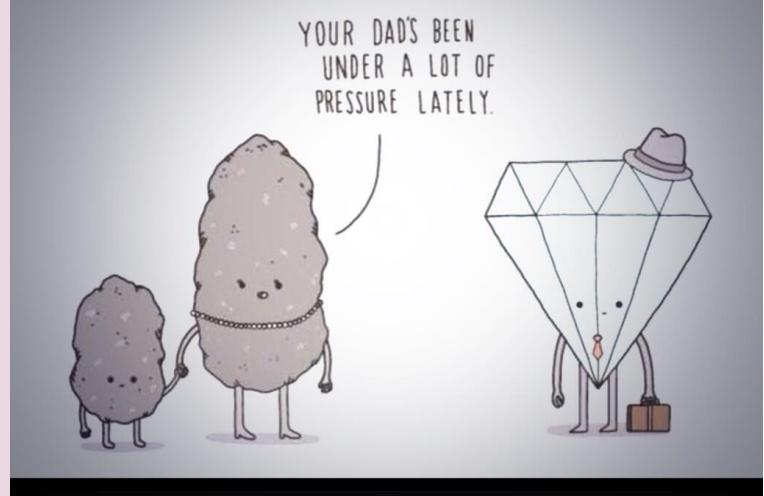
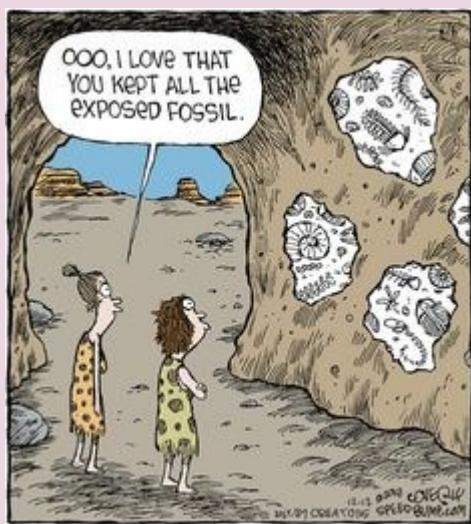
Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcut Mineral Society in Facebook Search).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The **ORE-CUTTS** (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization 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 the 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

