



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIII Number 12

December 2007

Come join us on December 8 at 12:00 Noon at Maria Del Sol Retirement Home at 1405 E. Main St.,



Santa Maria for the Annual Luncheon Meeting, Installation of Officers and Awards, and we will have a few surprises for those in attendance. Come and see what we can pull out of the old hat. Get an early peek at what OMS has in store for 2008, and relive our accomplishments of the past year. Members & Guests: \$10.00, Kids 12 and under \$5.00. Please bring a donation of cash for the Abused Children's Fund and Canned/Non-perishable Food for the Salvation Army Food Drive. This is a great meeting and opportunity to get to know other members better, as well as doing important club work. "There may be a few surprises for those in attendance!"



All I want for Christmas

Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy, well, pretty good, um... man, most of the year. I haven't kicked any dogs, belled any cats, or told (very many) whoppers. I have even held the door open for some older ladies (and a few young ones too). I have cleaned the highway, helped give away money for scholarships, supported the Santa Barbara Social Services Department, given food for the homeless, educated our local youth on the wonders of earth science, and driven to Arizona to buy prizes for our society's monthly raffle. I have also scrabbled in creeks, on hillsides, and at the beach for pretty rocks—just for the joy of being there.



I don't ask for much, but please grant me this wish—let me do **it** all over again next year, only better, and please, let me share **it** with more people. And while you are at it, please bring Peace to the World and sense to the senseless. Thank you for your past gifts, and may YOU have a joy-filled holiday season and new year.

Sincerely, A Proud member of the Orcutt Mineral Society

Abused Children's Fund

Jan Ferguson delivered our gift of \$500.00 to the Santa Barbara Department of Children's Services for 2007. Thank you to everybody who has donated and bought raffle tickets every month! You're the best!

'Twas Grace That Saved Me

By Ralph Bishop, Honorary member, OMS

The art of rappelling was second nature to me and my son had become very adept as well. Our 400-foot ropes could get us to a bench two-thirds of the way down, where a zigzag goat trail could start. This plan could not be aired to the Ladies of the family, it was just too "Hair Ball."

The conveyance of the rock was also a tough one. I started with the metal barrow of an old construction wheelbarrow. I cut a piece of chain link to fit loosely over the top so that it could be bolted to the lip of the barrow. I also belted a reinforced cable yoke off of the front and sides with an eyehook to attach a tow cable.

At that point I was stuck, because search and ask as I might, I could find no adequate cable of any length. It wasn't long though before divine providence struck again. On a trip to the dump I noticed a stake-bed truck off loading "construction" materials, so I ambled over just about the same time they rolled out a spool. It was still banded with metal tape and weighted "a ton." So I asked the dude if he'd mind if I took it, and he said, "Hell, no." He helped me roll it over to my trailer and into the bed. With a heart-felt "thanks", we parted. Ask and ye shall receive. It was a 1000-foot spool of one-quarter-inch

aircraft cable. The “mission” was meant to be. My son groaned loudly.

A recon trip was actually quite fun. On the ocean side of the asphalt roadway, Caltrans had graded a narrow dirt bed along side of the road just barely wide enough for my F250 4WD. If! If my passenger side tires were on the ocean side of the berm. As I drove down this stretch, my son, Cory, stopped me. When he looked out of his window, it was straight down to the ocean. We backed the truck up, got out pick and shovel, and modified the berm with a setback trench to accommodate the outside tires’ stability when moving back and forth. We kind of worked “between traffic” so as not to draw attention to our activity that might have been misconstrued as...inappropriate? Antisocial? At any rate I felt that I was setting a good example for my son by being rather discrete. It took some time. The traffic was moderate, but soon enough we’d modified the berm within 10 feet of the hanging bridge where a State signpost with a new yellow “Curve” sign had been set in concrete. Measuring the run, I was pleased. We had 80 feet of room for backing the truck.

When “D-Day” came, the cable had been modified with snatch and eyes at 70-foot intervals, for the new tow hook on the front of the truck. We arrived on a beautiful Sunday morning early and moved everything under the hanging bridge that was a great, out-of-sight staging area, and upper landing pad for the rock. Now the fun began. We hooked our eye straps to the hanging bridge supports. I went over first, and straight down the center gully of the rubble slide. I was surprised at how stable it was. Cory came next, and soon we were digging a zigzag goat trail up the south bank of the slide, after about two hours we’d made good progress, but at the 300-foot level it became too difficult. Cory dug a “landing” while I slowly moved the rocks up. By the time I’d gotten the last of the rock up, Cory had dug a super loading-zone. The ropes made for an easy ascent, and we were on our way.

At the lower landing we loaded and belted the barrow and hooked the eye. I pulled the cable up to the roadside, running it around the base of the new state “Curve” sign, and set the first loop on my hook. No Traffic...so I honked twice. Cory set himself out of the way and I backed up in low range 4-wheel drive. Up the barrow came and soon I saw a billow of gray dust. A little disruption on the rubble slide as 300-plus-pounds was being dragged upward. At the end of the run I honked. Cory set the snatch on the line. I unhooked and moved forward to the next loop. The lack of traffic on Sunday morning made the process go way too easy, and outside of clouds of gray dust brought up by the up draft, no big deal. We had to manicure a few steps from the underpinnings of the hanging bridge to the “Curve” sign to move the rock up, but soon enough the first load was in the bed of the

truck. We were set for the last load and an early hamburger in Cambria. The barrow was ripped up, as if it were only tin foil. Pulling the metal bottom over jagged rocks had cut deep gashes and curled the steel in a few places, but we only had one other pull.

The second load was smaller and I returned to the truck for another smooth pull. I noticed the pull was noticeably harder for the truck this time, so when I set the second loop I checked the cable. The cable had slid against the base of the 4x4 signpost, and dragging dirt and rocks up with it, it had cut half way into the 4x4. This wasn’t good, but there wasn’t much I could do about it except hope we could finish this last pull. Another loop, another pull, another loop, another pull. As I set the last loop, the cable was sunk into the 4x4 even further, but there were still a few inches of wood holding wood.

Like an old horse, I could see the barn. The last pull was stiff, and the gray cloud was substantial, boiling up above the roadway. 60 feet to go...50 feet...40 feet...30 feet...20 feet. And then “Mrs. Murphy,” wife of Mr. Murphy of *Murphy’s Law* * showed up! With the kids! I had to slam on the brakes as a blazer pulled up right behind me. Just as I noticed the black-and-white coloration, the lights went on. “Why me, Lord?” It was a “Big Ole Cop.” Could things get worse? Well, I’ll let you decide.

She got out of her vehicle and strode with authority toward my vehicle. Whoa...she was a “biggun”...a ranch gal I reckoned...narrow at the hips...and judging from the robust nature of her upper torso...a large woman with a gun on her hip. There seemed to be an air of stern aggravation in her voice when she said, “Please step out of the vehicle.” Somehow it didn’t have the tone of a request.

“What are you doing here?” she asked in the same tone of voice my wives had used on numerous occasions. Not only the tone, but the content of her questions were eerily reminiscent of the illogical rantings of my former spouses that had also grated on my (more logical) male psyche. I suppose there was some lag time before I answered her question. First, I was in a state of shock; second, because of the truck’s position, we were both standing on the edge of the southbound asphalt roadway in very close proximity to each other. I can honestly say it was not pheromonal arousal that mesmerized me for an inordinate period of time. Instead, I was so close it was hard for my aging eyes to focus on her nametag— Sgt. M. Stepford. It was made more difficult because the brass nametag pointed up, not out, being held in that position by a magnif...I mean, substantial “balcony”. As I gained my composure and looked into her eyes, I thought I recognized a glint of irritation I remember receiving from other members of the

* *Murphy’s Law*: If anything can go wrong, it will, and at the worst possible moment.

“fair gender” on a number of occasions...when I had a hard time looking into their eyes.

I'm sure I stammered. “Duh, duh, I'm pulling some rocks off of the beach,” was my honest answer.

“What?” I had also heard *that* tone from my wives. The situation was going south. She walked in front of the truck and saw the cable.

“What's this?” There was that feminine content and tone again.

“A cable.” I said. This large woman with a gun on her hip glared at me. She stomped onto the hanging bridge amid a smattering of traffic, somehow not noticing the cable imbedded at the base of the signpost.

“You can't do this.” Again, it sounded strangely familiar, that content and tone. As she looked over the edge she saw the load of rock nearly to the base of the bridge, hanging from the cable.

“What's that?” Again there was a common thread of tone here; a feminine voice, asking and stating, repetitive, undesirable verbiage. My patience with this female was wearing thin...on second thought; she was “The Law.”

“Who's that?” Another example of unwanted feminine verbiage...she was pushing it.

“That's my son, Cory.” At that moment Cory yelled up, “What the bleep, Dad. I can't set the “snatch.”

“What did he say?” this female asked.

“Snatch,” I said, probably showing my irritation at having to listen...again...to the standard feminine-type questions, that all women seem to ask all men, especially when the men are guilty and have work to do.

“Unless I back the truck up 20 more feet, the rock is stuck there and I cannot unhook the cable from the truck. Your Blazer is in the way.” She glared at me with a noticeable increase in intensity. It was something I was semi-accustomed to having been married twice.

She yelled, “You down there, come up here!” Cory was there, hanging on his repelling line 40-feet below us, a boy who had become a man, and this female was yelling at *him*.

“I can't set the ‘snatch’. Back the (blank) truck up so we can get this job done.” “Spoken like a man,” I thought. With all the discretion I could muster, I explained the situation to this...female...finally getting it through her thick skull that I would accommodate myself to anything she wanted, but for safety's sake we needed to get off of the hanging bridge, I needed to back up 20 feet and then she could do “anything” she wanted.

Ladies and Gentlemen...what more could a female ask of a man? Apparently she realized the superior wisdom I, as a male, was suggesting and stomped toward her vehicle. Being kind, I tossed in something that should have been obvious...

“Those flashing lights are making the tourists slow down and gawk. This is dangerous.” As her door slammed the lights went out and her Blazer lurched backwards. I felt a tingle within. Maybe I was a little rash in my point of suggestion. I backed up the truck, set the brake, honked, and unhooked the loop...mission accomplished!

I had just set an example for my son of a traditional “Can Do” work ethic. Now we who had conquered adversity in the tradition of our fathers and forefathers were only one irritant away from...Hamburgers.

I ran up to the bridge amid traffic and gave Cory hand signals, and started to haul ropes and the cable end from the base of the “Curve” sign. I had to jerk violently to get the cable out of the post, which barely stayed up by about 1-inch of wood holding it. With a big load of ropes, and dragging the cable, I had about 60-feet to watch the Sarge, leaning against the grill of her Blazer. I recognized that “feminine posture,” arms crossed in negativity, denoting boiling discontent at having to be patient...waiting for a man...to do what he had to do...waiting to release her pent up rage in the form of a good, old-fashioned, estrogen-fueled “razor lipping.” As I walked, I thought of how important it would be for me to set a good example for my young son, of how to deal with intergender communications. After all, the poor lad, being a man, would have to tolerate a great deal of this form of irritation, as he grew older.

“Driver's license and registration, please,” she said in a straightforward and professional manner. As I handed her the documents, I had to admit admiration for her level of composure.

Cory walked up about that time with a load of rock and tossed the pieces into the truck bed and immediately turned around and went back for another load.

“It's against the law to back up on the roadway against the flow of traffic,” she solemnly said as she unfurled her ticket book.

“But, Officer, I was not on the roadway...you can check my tire tracks from here to there. I was always a few inches from the blacktop. And for safety's sake I never moved the truck when there was any traffic. I specifically picked Sunday morning feeling there would be less traffic than any other day of the week.”

She set her jaw and strode from our position to the front of my truck, looked back at me and walked slowly to the “Curve” sign, eyes on the ground. Cory came up with a load of rock and they walked together back to my truck where Cory unloaded his pack, threw the rocks into the truck, and walked back to the bridge. The Sarge opened up her passenger door, took out a very thick book of statutes, laid it on her hood and after checking the index, paged through the book.

"If you don't mind, can I clean up my mess?" I asked... women always like those words. She dismissed me with a wave of her hand and a grump expression. It took some time to re-roll 700 feet of cable, snap tying every 50 feet into a coil.

Cory passed me with more rock saying to me, "She's a big one, huh, Dad?" and kept walking.

The crash of the rocks in the truck bed distracted the Sarge, and she and Cory had some unheard words. I could see him showing her a rock. As he walked by me, he quietly said, "Two more loads."

I continued with the cable until I had it half rolled. I dragged that half over to the truck and put it in the bed, and started rolling it from the other end. The Sarge seemed intent on her book. Cory dumped another light load of rock and our climbing saddles, and one rope. The Sarge was conversing with Cory and looking closely at our gear.

I heard Cory say, "Best money can buy, this is what we do for a living." As he passed me he said, "Last load," and made a comment about her femininity.

Cory and I reached the back of our truck about the same time, consolidated our load, and turned to Sergeant M. Stepford. She slammed the book and put it back in the passenger seat of her vehicle. I could feel it coming.

"Mr. Bishop, this is the most irresponsible thing I've ever seen. For you to set this type of example for your son is beyond belief. I have never seen anything as dangerous and irresponsible in my life!" The next words spoken are forever seared into my brain...I can hear them as if it were yesterday.

Cory matter of factly said, "Oh, this ain't nothin'!"

Then there was an eerie silence except for the waves below.

Finally, she said, "You risked your lives, and the safety of others, for what? Rocks?"

I walked to the cab of the truck and got a small bag of cut stones. Really nice, bright pink teardrop cabs with matching small drops. "This is what we were after," and I handed her a set. She rolled them around gently...did I detect a lady who liked...

"Pink is my favorite color," she said. Immediately catching herself, and nervously looking from side to side, she looked adoringly back at the stones.

"They're beautiful, but you can't do this kind of thing. We have enough trouble with the tourists running off the road."

"I understand," I said, "and I agree with you whole heartedly. This was a foolish and dangerous thing to do, and I promise you, Officer, on the honor of our family, I will never pull another stunt like this again. Ever!"

"It is against the law to back up against the flow of traffic on a California state roadway. I should site you for

at least that, but I could see your tires were not on the roadway, so I have no choice but to let you go." This time. But if I ever..."

"I have given you my word, Officer. I always keep my word."

She handed me back the stones and documents, and bid us to leave.

I said, "Thank you for your consideration. May I give you these stones as a gift to someone who admires them?"

"I cannot take gratuities," she said. I could tell her feminine heart broke, as she had to be professional.

"Ok," I said, and as I turned to go, I dropped the set of 3 stones she had looked at, and the other set in my hand, on the gravel between us.

As we drove off I asked Cory if she was picking them up.

"Not yet, Dad," said Cory, and just as we turned the point, "She dove on 'em, Dad."

About five miles down our southbound journey, mission accomplished, "Pinky," as Cory called her, passed us on the straight away above Jade Cove. Did I detect a smile with a constrained wave?

"Dad, you sure do know how to deal with women!" Cory said. "What was that crap about you setting a bad example? We got the rock, didn't we? How many other guys would have done what we did?"

"Not many," I said.

"So what was her problem?" Cory was getting a little macho.

"We were real close to breaking the law, Son, that's why we dug out the berm."

"They don't make laws for guys like us, do they, Dad?"

"Well, we've got to be careful not to break the laws or not complain about the consequences. But in America, it's in our Constitution; we are born with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"Yeah, Dad, the pursuit of happiness," and we gobbled monster burgers at Cambria on the way home.

Somewhere in Monterey County, in a modest home, a stately lady in her late fifties dresses for church and consciously picks her favorite pink teardrop jewelry to accent her conservative black outfit. The vibrancy of the color, in contrast, is as stunning to everyone at services today as it was years before when an old goat struck a rough black rock and had a brilliant pink triangle land at his feet. As she faces the mirror, her mind wanders back to that bright Sunday morning when she was on the force and encountered another old goat and his handsome young son dragging hundreds of pounds of rocks up the cliff at Limekiln. Few would guess this lovely lady was a hardened veteran of law enforcement, who had "seen it all." As she affixes an earring she remembers the young man's words, "Oh, this ain't nothing," and wonders if he'd

survived to manhood under the care of the old reprobate he had for a father. She remembers feeling a maternal concern for such a nice young man, and that was the only reason she didn't "cuff, stuff, and impound" that morning years ago. As the second earring slides into place, the beauty and balance of her appearance makes her almost understand the determination of the insanely fearless old goat. He was, after all, appreciative of her tolerance, and as old goats go, she had met worse.

In the fabric of life relationships, Cliff and Mattie began the circle, and I was fortunate to be included and be able to give of my energy to continue its journey. As the circle neared its end, the journey became steep and dangerous and my son was there to learn of life's boundaries, and in turn support the closure of the circle when Sergeant Stepford provided the final lesson in respect and propriety, allowing me to set a good example for him of a "can do" attitude. As the last of the rocks was unloaded at the house a pattern of success was passed on to Cory. From Cliff's decision to take Highway 1 to the Monterey Rock Show in 1955, to my diligence and rediscovery in the 1980's, to my son's growth toward maturity, to Sergeant Stepford's final test under fire, we are all inexorably linked in the completion of the circle. This is just one more of life's experiences that has erased for me the concept of time and chance on my life's journey.

MEMBER PROFILES

No Blonde Jokes Please...

By Wayne Mills

Christine Clason is a petite, personable, pleasant and soft-voiced blonde who became a member of OMS in 2003. She is a long-time friend of Sharon Duncan and Bob Bullock, all veteran residents of Santa Maria area. Born in San Diego County, Christine moved to the Santa Maria area in 1959. Her parents started an equipment rental yard in Santa Maria near the place where her grandparents already owned an ice cream shop.

After graduating from Santa Maria High School, Christine took classes in business at Cuesta College where she met her future husband. In 1971, Christine moved to Alaska with her husband who worked on the Alaska Pipeline for Schlumberger Company. While she was in Alaska, Christine continued her business education classes at Anchorage Community



College. After a year or so in Alaska, *Christine and Sharon's "owl cove"*

Christine returned to Santa Maria where she raised her children Julie and Michael, and attended classes at Alan Hancock College with a new focus on Early Childhood Development. She is STILL attending classes at Hancock, making her (dare I say) one of that institutions most, um...dedicated students.

She has put her education to good use, as she has been for some time a professional care-giver. After meeting some of her charges, I am amazed that her heart doesn't slow her down, because it has to be huge to put up with some of what she has had put up with. I am delighted to hear that she may be using her talents to help one of our own members who is getting to the point where she could use some help. More on that later.

Christine has seen her children grow into happy, productive citizens, and maintains a good relationship with them, though Julie lives on a self-sustaining farm in Texas, and Michael works for a firm that makes fiber optics in Denver, Colorado.

Christine gained her interest in rocks from close association with long-time friends Bob Bullock (former President of OMS), and Sharon Duncan (one of OMS's *Girls Gone Wild*; see the May 2005 Ore Cutts). In recent years, both Christine and Sharon have become interested in glass bead making, dichroic glass fusion, and wire warp. Christine has also taken silver fabrication classes and done lost-wax casting. Her favorite color is green, so it is no wonder that her favorite rock is jade. When I asked her what her favorite field trip was, she said she liked them all! She is my kind of rockhound (female!)

Rats! The New Year is Nearly Here

Incoming President For 2008, Wayne Mills

The year of the Rat is almost upon us. As the old boar shuffles off in the fading light of a cold December day, the Rat begins another 12-symbol cycle of the Chinese Zodiac. What will the new cycle bring to OMS? A new president, many familiar faces on the Board, and in the elective offices, and fresh opportunities to branch out in your hobby, and contribute to the community at the same time.

As you have probably heard since you were a kid, "you get out of a thing what you put into it." While we hope that the past year has been fulfilling for you, we think that there is still— room for improvement.

We will have displays at all (10) of our meetings at Mussell Center next year. Please bring rocks to display!! They don't even have to coincide with the monthly display theme. We will have refreshments at each of those 10 meetings. Please sign-up for at least one of the 10 months. The bulletin has had some wonderful articles

from a few members in the past year. Please call the editors with your ideas for new areas to explore, timely news items, or better yet, your own articles about rock-related things that interest you.

We still have 10 months until our show, but we also have a small crisis to solve. Our veteran show kitchen masters have declared that enough is enough, and their efforts on our club's behalf have been legendary. But we need someone new to step up and take over the reins in the kitchen for our show. The food at our show is one of the things our club is recognized for. It is three pretty intense days, but with all the help that's been promised, the job shouldn't be anything but rewarding!

SLO Rockin' At The Vet

By Wayne Mills,

The San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club is a glutton for punishment. They put on their second show of the year on the weekend after the Jade Festival this year (October 13-14). As usual, they had a nice little show in a really pretty venue—the Veterans Hall near the pier in Cayucos. I am guessing they had about 15 dealers, a nice barbecue concession, and for the first time I remember, some displays.

One of the displays pictured here was especially eye-catching—gold from different locations in California. Very nice. Besides Richard Sittenger's minerals, a couple of



dealers had some other really nice "stuff". These pictures capture only a couple of the things that intrigued me.

Not only are these tiger-eye cabochons highly polished, the lapidarist cut them on a bias, getting a gentle arc in the grain of the tiger-eye. To me, this is pleasant variation

Richard Sittenger's minerals, a couple of



on the old straight-grain we are used to seeing in this material.

I saw these jade earrings for the first time at the Jade Festival this year, *(but this was the second year they were there... Isn't it amazing how much you miss on one pass through a show, that you spot on the next pass?~Ed)* but a couple of the dealers there were adamant about NOT photographing their materials. I got permission to take this picture that nicely shows off the variety of colors in jade, as well as the sumptuous glow of thinly cut earring pieces. I also wanted to capture the stand that is ideal for storing a quantity of earrings, and handsome as well.

Nicely done SLO Club—this one was a gem! *(Not to mention that Bill Hood won the second prize, a 5 lb sculpture of a dolphin...the second second prize he has won since September at a club show. He ought to be buying lottery tickets! ~Ed.)*

OMS A*-Team Gits 'Er Done

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Liaison

I was a little worried about the November 17 Highway clean-up, as half the normal starting line-up was out of town, but the guys and Laura came through. A really BIG thank you to Marty Lingerfelt who had the clean-up equipment on site ahead of time, and to everyone else that showed up. Steve Riegel, who is not yet an official member was there, along with one of our newest members, Ralph Larsen, as well as Don Nasholm, Geary Scheffer, Bob Bullock, Bud Burgess, Lee Reyburn, Laura Kasteal and myself. We got through our areas pretty quickly, and headed for Francisco's for coffee and ...toast!! (Unfortunately they were out of cinnamon rolls, and a few of the crew were a bit disappointed). We had a couple of interesting conversations going on at once, and I found out that Steve and his wife are both geologists, and just got back from Italy. Steve's wife was recently published in Rock and Gem (this month?), so I smell a program in the offing. The only problem is that his wife is working out of state for much of next year.

* Adopt-A-Highway

Back to Camp

Wayne Mills

Do you remember the anticipation you had as a kid looking forward to summer camp? The plaster sculptures and lanyards, the S'mores and nature hikes? Well, all that and more are available to members of the CFMS except for the S'Mores maybe). We have TWO camps in two very different venues that are staffed with top-flight instructors and set in surroundings that just make you want to play with your rocks.

Camp Paradise that just finished its first year under the ownership of the Greek Orthodox Church just finished its second session of the year and was declared a rousing

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success by those who attended. The camp is located about 5000 feet above the Great Valley in Yuba County. There is soapstone on the property, and gold in the nearby creeks (not much, maybe, but some). Room and board and instruction for the week is \$300 per person (class materials are extra). Applications are made available at the CFMS Website and in the CFMS Bulletin in April. The two consecutive sessions are the first two weeks in September (this year, camp started on Friday, August 31 and ran to Friday September 17.) Next year's dates are August 28-September 12 (2008).

Zyzzx, the last name in California geography, is located in the Mojave Desert, about 52 miles east of Barstow, on Interstate 15 (at the edge of Soda Dry Lake). There are a lot of places to look for rocks around there, and they are all exposed! One of my favorites is the Toltec turquoise mine at Halloran Summit. But you will want to take advantage of the expert instruction available at both camps to work on that project that has been in the works for 5 years or so, or to learn a new skill. Among the classes offered are cabochon making, silver fabrication, wire wrapping, soft and hard stone carving, and copper enameling. At Camp Paradise, they teach faceting, silver and gold casting, and glass bead making as well as others. Zyzzx classes are on March 23-30, 2008. Applications for Zyzzx are available on the CFMS Website on October 1, and they go fast. The camp is already full for the 2008 session. However, I understand that: Audrey Harvey, 3363 Tuxford Place, Ventura, CA 93003 is taking stand-by reservations in case of last minute cancellations.

Since the New Year is fast approaching, it might be a good idea to place the earliest camp reservation dates on your calendar.

CFMS Director Meeting – 10 November 2007

By Wes Lingerfelt

The sun was still hiding when Jeannie and I hit the road for Visalia at 5:30 am. We made good time to Kettleman City where we stopped for breakfast. We were back on the road at 7:30 and made it to the Holliday Inn conference room by 8:30 am. Jeannie had brought along a book to keep her company while the meeting was in progress. It was a standard fare occasion with only a few items of interest I have outlined below:

1. There were 63 Directors, 24 Committee Chairs and 5 CFMS Officers present.
2. I was almost roped into being on the CFMS Nominating Committee for 2008 but was spared at the last moment.
3. The Insurance Coordinator announced that a new insurance policy for vendors is available from McDaniel Insurance Services. The Insurance

coordinator recommended everyone get it. Cost is \$450.00/year.

4. I complied with our President's request to seek support for our new PLAC Committee Chair. I defined the lack of coordination and communication with the local clubs and requested they try to develop some type of procedure or mechanism to improve information flows. They did announce plans to develop some sort of call tree within the CFMS PLAC. Standby for future news if it comes.
5. Nancy Brace-Thompson will be taking over the CFMS Endowment Fund formerly held by Ray Meisenheimer.
6. I received a new Catalog for the CFMS Slide & Video programs
7. The Executive Secretary announced the following clubs intend to disband:
 - a. Boulder Gem Club
 - b. Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society
 - c. Porterville Area Gem & Mineral Society
8. The Slate of Officers for 2008 are as follows:
 - a. President: Bural LaRue
 - b. 1st VP: CJ Quintoriano
 - c. 2nd VP: Fred Ott
 - d. Treasurer: Cal Clason
 - e. Secretary: Jim Brace-Thompson
9. The deadline for entering the Bulletin Contest is December 10th, 2007
10. The IRS is having a workshop aimed at small exempt organizations. It will cover Dos & Don'ts on political activities and all regulatory reports required of small exempt organizations. If the Society is interested in sending someone (an Officer or Board member) to the event then we must email Mike Kokinos whom will forward the registration information. The Sacramento sessions are December 18, 19 & 20. The cost is \$45.00.
11. CFMS Dues for 2008 are \$1.50 and Insurance is \$6.00 per member of record as of 31 December 2007.
12. The Golden Bear with gavel pin has been discontinued; no replacement is forth coming.

There you have it in a nutshell!

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Lingerfelt, CFMS Director representing the OMS #66 (21st year).

Let it Be(ad)

By Wayne Mills

The source for much of the bead information we have printed this year is A Universal Aesthetic Collectible Beads, Robert K. Liu, Ornament, Inc., 1995.

Ore-Cutts

In his colorful and instructive book, Mr. Liu notes that there are over 5,000 different bead types from Venice alone, and over 100,000 different types in the European Bead houses, and this is information from 1975. This figure does not specifically include all the bead-types produced in other bead making centers including Africa, Asia and the Philippines.

As creative as our own beaders are, this represents a nearly infinite variety of necklace and earring patterns that can be created from available beads.

Closing out our year of beads, are two random selections from the book

A string of Himalayan Beads including a six-eyed Dzi bead. In the United States, prices for a two to four-eyed Dzi range from \$2600 to \$8400. Picture from [A Universal](#)



[Aesthetic Collectible Beads](#)

A string of Pumtek beads from Mizoram, India. These are made from opalized wood. No one as yet has determined how the pattern is applied to the fossil wood.



Picture from [A Universal Aesthetic Collectible Beads](#)

Regardless of how or where you wear your beads or why you wear them, there are societies in most states that can give you even more ideas on this topic. [A Universal Aesthetic Collectible Beads](#) has a listing of many of these societies. Another wonderful resource that I stumbled upon is the Bead Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. To me it is a must see if you have even a moderate interest in the topic.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center Santa Maria, Ca. November 2, 2007

The Meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President, Debbie Hood.

Board members present were Debbie Hood, Wayne Mills, Wes Lingerfelt, Sandy Berthelot, Dee Dee Magri, Gary Sheffer, Bob Bullock, Elaine Von Achen and Mike Henson. Guests included Paul Berthelot, Bud Burgess and Bill Hood.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved with one addition (that we also need a place to have the February and June Board Meeting as well as January) as published in the November 2007 newsletter.

Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted as read.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society and the Capistrano Valley Rock and Mineral Club. We also received a letter from McDaniel Insurance requesting an Insurance Coverage & Responsibilities Form in order to add liability coverage for special events. A letter was received from the State of California with our raffle registration number and confirmation.

Committee Reports:

Education: Wayne Mills reported that he will be giving a talk to students in Daniel Limon's class at Patterson Road School on November 9, 2007. Later that afternoon he will give a talk to a class at Dana Elementary.

Federation: Wes will be attending the CFMS meeting in Visalia on November 10.

Highway Clean up: Wayne Mills announced the next clean-up will be held on November 17, 2007. Everyone will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Highways 101 and 166.

Library: We now have the pattern for the club vests and it will be available to check out at the meeting.

Scholarship: Wayne Mills and Christine Clason enjoyed a play, meal and auction at the Santa Margarita Ranch as a thank you from Cuesta College for our annual scholarship donation.

Annual Gem Show: None

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Christine Clason is staying with Kay Vollmer to help out and keep her company. Erica Erskine is waiting for test results on a lump in her neck.

Public Lands Access Committee: Dick Bazzell is considering taking the chairmanship for this committee.

Field Trip: There will be a field trip to Shafter to Bill Leslie's place on November 10, 2007 meeting at the Elwin Mussell Sr. Center at 8:00 a.m.

Old Business:

The nominating committee has the same nominations as read at the October general meeting. There have been no changes.

Bill Hood said that he had been to Maria Del Sol checking on arrangements for our annual December luncheon and meeting. They have a new banquet manager and prices have gone up. He was told it would be a \$15.00 charge per person which would include a veggie tray. It was decided that we will pay the \$15.00 charge and have a veggie tray.

New Business:

Elaine Von Achen picked up a brand new, never out of the box, roaster at a yard sale for \$20.00. She said she would sell it to the club for that price if they were interested. Wes Lingerfelt made a motion to buy the roaster for \$20.00 and Wayne Mills seconded. Motion passed.

The program for the November general meeting will be by Wayne Mills titled "Rocks! Outdoors to Indoors". Displays will be your choice 12" x 12". There will be a prize for the favorite display. Refreshments will be cookies provided by Don Nasholm, Christine Clason, Debbie Hood and Truman Burgess.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. by President, Debbie Hood.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Ore-Cutts

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca. October 13, 2007

President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Bill Hood led the flag salute.

Sharon Duncan reported 32 members and 9 guests. Guests included Jeff Hardesty, Daniel Limon, Steve Riegel, Colleen Johnson, Donna Lehman, Cheryl Hagopian, Jane Kametani, Mary McKay and Joe Martinez.

Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the previous board meeting. Bill Hood noted that it was \$15.00 per person for the December luncheon meeting which included a veggie tray and not \$15.00 per veggie tray. In addition, Debbie Hood noted that Elaine had listed the wrong people bringing cookies to the November meeting. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurers report and it was accepted as read.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported receiving newsletters from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club and South Bay Lap & Mineral Club.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality: Dee Dee Magri announced refreshment for the evening would be cookies brought by Laura Kasteal, Don Nasholm, Truman Burgess, Debbie Hood and Dee Dee Magri.

Bulletin: Debbie Hood noted that everyone should have received his or her bulletins and the bulletin is on the web.

Abused Children: Jeannie Lingerfelt said that she had some amethyst and some mineral specimens for the evening's raffle.

CFMS: Wes gave a short report on the November 10 meeting in Visalia. Most of the information will be published in the December newsletter. He did note that AFMS will raise dues \$0.25 per person which may increase our CFMS dues.

Sunshine: Erica Erskine is not well. Paul Berthelot's father passed away. We were very pleased to have Kay Vollmer at the meeting, as she was feeling well enough to attend.

Membership: None

Annual Dinner: Bill Hood will pass around a sign-up sheet for the December 8th luncheon. He asked that members bring canned goods for the Salvation Army food drive.

Scholarship: Wayne Mills noted that the next Alan Hancock College scholarship would be in the amount of \$1,300.

Field Trips: Bob Bullock said that no one showed up for the November field trip to Shafter so he went home. He said he was working on everyone carpooling for the December trip.

Education: Wayne Mills reported giving a talk to around 60+ students at Dana Elementary and a talk at Patterson Road School in Daniel Limon's class.

Property: None

Library: None

Monthly Breakfast: Gloria Dana said the next breakfast will be November 23rd at 9:30 a.m. at The Boy's Restaurant in Santa Maria.

Highway Cleanup: Wayne Mills announced that the next cleanup will be held November 17, 2007 meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Highways 101 and 166. Ralph Larsen said he would be there.

Raffle: Wayne Mills reported raffle items for the evening include an amethyst cathedral, a beautiful piece of malachite, condor agates donated by Ralph Bishop, petrified wood, a stone bird, quartz crystals and much more.

Public Lands Access Committee: Dick Bazzell has agreed to chair this committee. He had nothing to report this evening.

Old Business:

The nominating committee has nominated the following members for the 2008 slate:

President: Wayne Mills

President Elect: Debbie Hood

Secretary: Elaine Von Achen

Treasurer: Wes Lingerfelt

Board Members: Sandy Berthelot, Mike Henson, Dee Dee Magri, Sylvia Nasholm and Sharon Duncan. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of candidates by unanimous acclamation. The motion carried.

New Business:

The evening's display is a 12" x 12" (anything goes) competition. A prize for the best display will be awarded. Wayne Mills won for a presentation of stone eggs.

The program for the evening will be presented by Wayne Mills and titled "Rocks! Outdoors to Indoors".

The meeting was adjourned by President, Debbie Hood at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS



ORE-CUTTS (named after, William Orcutt) was published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, 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 1889, William 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 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 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

December 2007 Calendar

Tuesday
Dec. 4, 2007
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

OMS Board Meeting-Elwin
Mussell Senior Center. All
members are welcome at this

Ore-Cutts

	business meeting.
Saturday Dec 8, 2007 12:00 Noon to 3:00p.m.	OMS Annual Meeting at Maria Del Sol at 1405 E. Main St., Santa Maria
Saturday Dec. 15, 2007 8:00 a.m. to ?? p.m..	Field Trip to Gaviota
Saturday Dec. 22, 2007	OMS Monthly Breakfast-No Breakfast this month!

2007-OMS Officers

Pres.	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Pres. Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Bob Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2007-OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt –(805) 929-3788
Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org>
or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Deborah Hood, Senior Editor	(805) 481-6860
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: Photographs used in this bulletin were taken by Wayne Mills except where noted.

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 new members for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

Show Schedule

December 1-2 2007, Barstow, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 both days
Gene Haines (760) 256-0595
Beth Pinnell (760) 255-1030
Show Flyer: www.mdgms.org/show.html

December 1-2 2007, Orangevale, CA

American River Gem & Mineral Society
Orangevale Grange
5807 Walnut Ave.
Hours: 10-5 both days
Florence Hansan (916) 955-5189
Evelyn Tipton (916) 791-4517

December 8-10 2007, San Bernardino, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Inc.
Rudy C Hernandez Community Center
222 North Lugo Ave (2nd and Sierra Way)
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Lyle Strayer (909) 887-3394
Al Carrell (951) 961-5988
Emma Rose (951) 288-6182

2008 Show Schedule

January 19-20 2008, Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemboree
Veteran's Memorial Bldg.
On Highway 65
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Marshall Havner (559) 562-4133

Email: mdhavner@verizon.net

For Sale

Men's extra large OMS Vest with patch..\$25.00. See Wes Lingerfelt for details. (805) 929-3788

OMS Calendar 2008

Rev. December 3, 2007

Meetings are held at Elwin Mussell Senior Center (EMSC) 510 E. Park Street, Santa Maria, CA at 7:00 PM (Unless noted)

JAN		JUL	
Form 2008 Committees - Dealer Contracts out		Reserve Pioneer Park for next year, Plan show	
2	January Board Meeting—Wayne's Home	1	July Board Meeting—EMSC
8	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Fluorescent Rocks-Steve Riegel Display: Central Coast Rocks Dessert: Doughnuts	8	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Carrarra Marble Quarry-Dee Dee Magri Display: 1 x 1 (foot) display anything goes Dessert: Pie
12	🏠 FT— TBA	12	🏠 FT— Jalama Beach (Fee)
19	Highway cleanup-8:00 AM @ 101/166 East	19	Highway cleanup- 8:00 AM @ 101/166 East
26	☕ Breakfast— Pappy's, Santa Maria	26	☕ Breakfast— Denny's, Pismo Beach
FEB		AUG	
February Board Meeting—Elaine's Home		Send digital images of show to Wayne	
5	February Board Meeting—Elaine's Home	1-3	OMS 41st Annual Gem Show-St. Joseph's Church, Nipomo
12	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Sphere Making-Wes Lingerfelt Display: Handmade lapidary items, Dessert: Cake	5	August Board Meeting—EMSC
16	🏠 FT—Jade Cove, Mon. Co.	12	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Show recap, slides from show Display: Goodies from the show, or? Dessert: Cookies
23	☕ Breakfast— Denny's, (Main) Santa Maria	16	🏠 FT—None
MAR		23	☕ Breakfast— Margie's Diner, SLO
March Board Meeting—EMSC		SEPT	
4	March Board Meeting—EMSC	Submit reservations for EMSC to SM Parks and Rec	
11	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Mineral Dealer Display: Green Rocks, minerals Dessert: Pie	2	September Board Meeting—EMSC
8	🏠 FT—Carrizo Plains (Tour Only)	8/28-9/4 9/5-12	Earth Science Seminar (2-1 week sessions) Camp Paradise, Yuba County
15	Highway cleanup- 8:00 AM @ 101/166 East	9	General Meeting-Name Election Committee Program: Fossils of the Central Coast-Wayne Mills Display: Fossils Dessert: Cake
22	☕ Breakfast— Jocko's, Nipomo	13-14	Paso Robles Show (Pioneer Park)
23-30	Zyzzx- Earth Science Seminar	13	🏠 FT -Las Padres NF, (Adv. Pass Required)
APR		20	Highway cleanup- 8:00 AM @ 101/166 East
Requests for show displays out		27	☕ Breakfast— Country Kitchen, Arroyo Grande
12	Storage Locker Cleanup	OCT	
1	April Board Meeting—EMSC	11-12— SLO Club Show (Cayucos)	
8	General Meeting—EMSC Program: CFMS Program/Italian Volcanoes? Display: A favored rock treasure Dessert: Cookies	3-5	Jade Festival Pacific Valley
19	🏠 FT—Figueroa Mt. (Adv. Pass Required)	7	October Board Meeting—EMSC
26	☕ Breakfast— CJ's, Arroyo Grande	14	General Meeting—EMSC Program: CFMS Program Display: Rocks from favorite field trips Dessert: Pie
MAY		18	🏠 FT—Clear Creek, San Benito Co.
May Board Meeting—EMSC		25	☕ Breakfast— CJ's, Arroyo Grande
6	May Board Meeting—EMSC	NOV	
13	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Formation of Marcasite & Dendrites-Ralph B. Display: Surprise us!!! Dessert: Cake	Hold Elections	
10	🏠 FT— Big Sandy	4	November Board Meeting—EMSC
17	Highway cleanup-8:00 AM @ 101/166 East	8	🏠 FT— Avila Beach
24	☕ Breakfast— Shirley's Diner, Grover Beach	11	General Meeting—EMSC Program: Crafts with Found Objects-Deborah Hood Display: Best 1 x 1 (no other rules) Dessert: Cookies
JUNE		15	Highway cleanup-8:00 AM @ 101/166 East
16- SLO Club Show (Cayucos)		22	☕ Breakfast— Jocko's, Nipomo
7	Semi-Annual Meeting-Pioneer Park Bring rocks for silent auction!	DEC	
3	June Board Meeting—TBA	Submit Bulletins to CFMS (9th)	
21	🏠 FT—TBA	2	December Board Meeting—EMSC
28	☕ Breakfast— Coco's, Pismo Beach	6	Annual Meeting-Maria Del Sol, Bring Food Cans, \$ for ACF
		13	🏠 FT—Gaviota, Refugio
		25	Merry Christmas!
		X	No Breakfast this month