



Ore-Cutts

Please join us on December 7, 2013 at 12:00 noon at Santa Maria Terrace, 1405 E. Main Street, Santa Maria, for our Annual Dinner Meeting. We will be installing our new Officers and doing any business that needs doing.

Please purchase your tickets for the dinner before Dec 1st; you can get them by calling Bill Hood at 481-6860.

Remember to bring donations of canned goods or staples for the Salvation Army Food Drive, as well as any cash donations for the Abused Children’s Fund.

Also if you wish to participate in the Gift Exchange bring a Rock Related Item with a value of \$10.00 or less.

The Prez Box—December

Wayne Mills, OMS president

Wow, what a meeting! We had a great talk by Dr. Bob Gray from Santa Barbara City College about recent discoveries by him and his students at Vandenberg AFB. The discoveries are Rancho La Brea—aged faunal remains (~80,000 years old) found at 35 places in the marine terraces there. We also had a nice competition for the best 1 x 1 display won by yours truly. I hope we have many more than four entries next year. We also had a wonderful variety of cookies, some really special guests, and a near capacity crowd that included 14 students from Santa Barbara City College.

On the 16th, we had our bi-monthly highway clean-up led by Wes Lingerfelt, and attended by many of the faithful few who routinely show-up for this activity. On the 23rd, we had our last field trip of the year to Cliff Brewen’s (member of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds) Tailgate at his home in Paso Robles. During this last interim, yours truly enjoyed nine fun-filled days on the Big Island of Hawaii. You will

perhaps hear more about that trip later. Our last Club Breakfast of the year was on the 23rd, and hopefully all our members enjoyed a “Thanks full” Thanksgiving Holiday with their families, and perhaps even eased into the Christmas Holiday by participating in “Black Friday”.

As evidenced by the crispness in the air, and the changing colors of the leaves on many trees, our year is coming to a close, and with it, my term as your president. Our last activities are the joint board meeting of our outgoing and incoming officers at the Henson’s on December 3, and our Annual meeting/Awards luncheon on December 7 at Santa Maria Terrace. PLEASE: Get your tickets for the annual meeting from Bill Hood before December 1 because TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. The club got stuck with a big bill last year for folks who said they would show up, then didn’t, so our policy had to change. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under.

With two events to go, 2013 is almost a wrap. We thank all members who helped plan and who participated in our various activities, who brought in desserts and displays to our meetings, and who helped out at our show.

Congratulations to our new president, Elaine Von Achen, and to our new president –elect--Dyanna Cridelich. Please give these ladies your full support in the coming year. I am still an ardent believer that “you get out of something what you put into it”.

Again, a big THANK YOU to all our members for their help and good thoughts during 2013. Here’s wishing you a very warm, safe, joy-filled and peaceful holiday season to you all. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming annual meeting. Come see what 2014 has in store for you, and honor the folks who have served you



Dr. Gray, bones and students

Sunshine

Jan continues to make good progress in her recovery from knee replacement surgery. Truman Burgess had a successful surgery to clear a carotid artery.



Azevedo Donation to Club

Joe & Lisa Azevedo donated a Microscope and a large number of Lapidary Magazines that belonged to Joe's father, Charles Azevedo. We thank them very much for this generous donation. The board is requesting feedback regarding the proposal to keep the microscope for club use and possibly auction the lapidary magazines. Your board members have lists of all the donations. If you have any ideas or input, please speak to one of the officers or board members.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday greetings go out to those who are having birthdays in December: Sandy Berthelot, Jeanne Brown, Truman Burgess, Richard Dry, Brenna Ferguson, Peggy Johnson, Lee Reyburn & Samantha S. Happy Birthday to all of you & many more!



Congratulations go out to members celebrating an anniversary in December: Bob & Rosie Bullock and Paul & Marie Howard.



If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in the Red Book. Please write it down and give it to Wes Lingerfelt to get it updated.

Opportunity- Bulletin Editor

After many years of doing my best to provide an interesting, easy to read and timely source for club events, I am ready to turn it over to someone else. I have really enjoyed doing the newsletter, and it did force me, kicking and screaming, into the 20th Century

and use of a computer to publish it. It was ONLY through the assistance of Wes Lingerfelt that it was possible to make it as good as it was. He helped me learn to use the computer, the Word program, and acted as assistant Editor by checking all the copy before publishing.

So, all you budding writers out there...here is your opportunity to give it a try. I will be happy to help where I can, give you the Bulletin Editor's aides, and I'm sure Wes will continue to act as a backup.

**California Marine Terraces
California Coastal Commission**

From Cape Vizcaino in Mendocino County south to San Diego, the California coast comprises a discontinuous series of narrow, flat-lying marine terraces, or wave-cut benches, located between the sea cliffs and coastal mountain foothills.

These terraces are characteristic of exposed, windward coast where waves pound against the shore, cutting a vertical cliff face over time. The surging ocean then planes smooth the sea floor at the base of the cliff, forming the flat step of the submerged terrace. The existence of several terrace levels at one coastal site is evidence of the long-term geologic processes affecting the California coast. Between one and two million years ago the oldest and highest terraces were uplifted by the same mountain-building process that created the Coast Ranges. In addition to the incremental rise of the coast, the subsequent advance and retreat of Ice Age glaciers caused sea level to alternately drop and rise, and sequences of terraces were cut by waves and currents in the intervening periods of sea level stability.

The most extensive marine terraces along the California coast are exposed along the sides of the Palos Verdes Hills in Los Angeles County, where a series of thirteen terraces rises to 1,300 feet above sea level. More than twenty stepped terraces are visible along the coast of San Clemente Island. Well-developed terraces along the Mendocino coast near Jug Handle Creek feature five wave cut platforms--the highest, at 600 feet, is 500,000 years old, and the youngest terrace, presently at 100 feet above sea level, emerged 100,000 years age. Other terraces are visible at Fort Bragg in Mendocino County, at Duxbury Reef in Marin County, along the Santa Cruz coast, at Point Buchon in San Luis Obispo County and at Dana Point in Orange County. Submerged terraces to depths of 500 feet lie just offshore of the coast from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Less than 25,000 years old, these terraces are in the process of forming.

Terrace soils are generally thin, commonly composed of rock debris, marine fossils fragments, and shells that were deposited on the once-submerged terrace. These

marine sediments are often buried under thick alluvial deposits of sand and gravel from streams and rivers crossing the terraces after they emerged from the sea. Grasses grow on many terraces. In Northern California the terraces are covered by redwood and pine forests. On the Mendocino coast, a unique forest of pygmy cypress and pine trees has adapted to the sandy, nutrient-deficient soils on the upper marine terraces.

Editor's Note: The following is an abstract from the talk Dr. Gray gave at the November meeting, hint: get your geological dictionary out:

**Late Pleistocene Mega fauna of the 80ka Marine Terrace, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California
By Dr. Robert S. Gray and Melissa Macias, assisted by Eiko Kitao**

A paleontological reconnaissance survey of the area sea cliffs, coastline, and associated drainages of Vandenberg Air Force Base was conducted to identify exposed, unrecorded, and/or buried paleontological material in geologic rock units along the eroding sea cliffs. Approximately seventy-five kilometers of rarely accessible sea cliffs and steep canyon drainages were surveyed. The vertical sea cliffs range from 2 meters to 50 meters high.

The vertical sea cliffs consist of Miocene Monterey Formation and/or Sisquoc Formation bedrock overlain in many areas by Late Pleistocene coastal (marine) terraces (beach sands) deposits, which in turn are overlain by Late Pleistocene continental terrace deposits, and/or eolianite terrace deposits. Although no age data was available to the Late Pleistocene marine terraces/continental terraces, results from similar terraces near Vandenberg Air Force Base yielded ages correlated to oxygen isotope 5e (120ka) for the higher terraces, and stage 5a (80ka) for the lower terraces.

The Late Pleistocene continental terrace deposits 95a-80 ka) yielded most of the vertebrate fossil localities. These deposits primarily near the sea cliffs consist mostly of braided-meander belt sediments that supplied the best burial conditions for vertebrate fossils. However it is possible that new fossil sites will be discovered closer to the mountainous areas in the Piedmont Fan complex. The original survey done by the senior geologist found a number of Late Pleistocene mega fauna sites. Seventeen new fossil sites were discovered, most in the Late Pleistocene continental terraces, unearthed included: horse (*Equus sp.*) ground sloth (*Paramylodon harlani*), camel (*Camelops hesternus*), mammoth (*Mammuthus sp.*) mastodon (*mammut sp.*) and bison (*Bison sp.*).

This past year (2013,) a new study was conducted by a paleobiology major at UCSB, for a senior thesis. This study revisited all previous localities and also

discovered a number of new localities. Sixteen new fossil localities with over 50 individual fossils were recorded including: *Bison sp.*, *Camelops hesternus*, *Equus occidentalis*, *Paramylodon harlani*, and *Platygonus sp.* Although many localities consist of isolated individual bones, a high concentration was found at Brown's Beach, "Eiko's Elephant Graveyard (EEG). Thirty nearly complete fossil bones were recovered in 25m² sections with over half identified as *Paramylodon harlani*.

New fossil localities at Vandenberg Air Force Base will provide valuable data for paleontological resources in Santa Barbara County. These localities will add to the knowledge of Rancho La Brea mega fauna found in southern California.

**La Brea Tar Pits
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.**

The La Brea Tar Pits (or Rancho La Brea Tar Pits) are a group of tar pits around which Hancock Park was formed, in urban Los Angeles. Asphaltum or tar (Brea in Spanish) has seeped up from the ground in this area for tens of thousands of years. The tar is often covered with dust, leaves, or water. Over many centuries, the bones of animals that were trapped in the tar were preserved. The George C. Page Museum is dedicated to researching the tar pits and displaying specimens from the animals that died there. The La Brea Tar Pits are a registered National Natural Landmark.

The La Brea Tar Pits and Hancock Park are situated within what was once the Mexican land grant of Rancho La Brea, now part of urban Los Angeles in the Miracle Mile district, adjacent to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Craft and Folk Art Museum.

Tar pits are composed of heavy oil fractions called asphaltum, which seeped from the earth as oil. In Hancock Park, crude oil seeps up along the 6th Street Fault from the Salt Lake Oil Field, which underlies much of the Fairfax District north of the park. The oil reaches the surface and forms pools at several locations in the park, becoming asphalt as the lighter fractions of the petroleum biodegrade or evaporate.

This seepage has been happening for tens of thousands of years. From time to time, the asphalt would form a deposit thick enough to trap animals, and the surface would be covered with layers of water, dust, or leaves. Animals would wander in, become trapped, and eventually die. Predators would enter to eat the trapped animals and also become stuck.

The tar pits visible today are actually from human excavation. The lake pit was originally an asphalt mine. The other pits visible today were produced between 1913 and 1915, when over 100 pits were excavated in

search of large mammal bones. Various combinations of asphaltum and water have since filled in these holes. Normally, the asphalt appears in vents, hardening as it oozes out, to form stubby mounds. These can be seen in several areas of the park.

As the bones of dead animals sink into the asphalt, it soaks into them, turning them a dark-brown or black color. Lighter fractions of petroleum evaporate from the asphalt, leaving a more solid substance, which encases the bones. Apart from the dramatic fossils of large mammals, the asphalt also preserves microfossils: wood and plant remnants, rodent bones, insects, mollusks, dust, seeds, leaves, and even pollen grains. Examples of some of these are on display in the museum.

Radiometric dating of preserved wood and bones has given an age of 38,000 years for the oldest known material from the La Brea seeps. The pits still ensnare organisms today, so most of the pits are fenced to protect humans and animals.

The Native American Chumash people living in the area distinguished themselves as the finest boat builders among the California Natives. Pulling fallen Northern California redwood trunks and pieces of driftwood from the Santa Barbara Bay, Chumash ancestors soon learned to seal the cracks between the boards of the large wooden plank canoes using the natural resource of tar. This unique and innovative form of transportation allowed access up and down the coastline and on the Channel Islands.

The Portolà expedition, a group of Spanish explorers led by Gaspar de Portolá, made the first written record of the tar pits in 1769. Father Juan Crespí wrote, "While crossing the basin the scouts reported having seen some geysers of tar issuing from the ground like springs; it boils up molten, and the water runs to one side and the tar to the other. The scouts reported that they had come across many of these springs and had seen large swamps of them, enough, they said, to caulk many vessels. We were not so lucky ourselves as to see these tar geysers, much though we wished it; as it was some distance out of the way we were to take, the Governor [Portolá] did not want us to go past them. We christened them Los Volcanes de Brea "the Tar Volcanoes".

For some years, tar-covered bones were found on the Rancho La Brea property but were not initially recognized as fossils, because the ranch had lost various animals, including horses, cattle, dogs, and even camels, whose bones closely resemble several of the fossil species. The original Rancho La Brea land grant stipulated that the tar pits be open to the public for the use of the local Pueblo. Initially, they mistook the bones in the pits for the remains of pronghorn antelope

(*Antilocapra Americana*) or cattle that had become mired.

Union Oil geologist W. W. Orcutt is credited with first recognizing that fossilized prehistoric animal bones were preserved in pools of asphalt on the Hancock Ranch in 1901. In commemoration of Orcutt's initial discovery, paleontologists named the La Brea coyote (*Canis orcutti*) in his honor

Contemporary excavations of the bones started in 1913–1915. In the 1940s and 1950s, public excitement was generated by the preparation of previously recovered large mammal bones. Subsequent study demonstrated the fossil vertebrate material was well preserved, with little evidence of bacterial degradation of bone protein.

By the 1970s, research attention had shifted to smaller specimens, such as preserved insects and plant parts, including microfossils, such as pollen grains. These remains have contributed to an understanding of the Los Angeles basin during the glacial age, revealing a cooler and moister climate.

Methane gas escapes from the tar pits, causing bubbles that make the asphalt appear to boil. Asphalt and methane appear under surrounding buildings and require special operations for removal to prevent the weakening of building foundations.

In 2007, researchers from UC Riverside discovered that the bubbles were caused by hardy forms of bacteria embedded in the natural asphalt. After consuming petroleum, the bacteria release methane. Of the bacteria sampled, about 200 to 300 were previously unknown species.

The George C. Page Museum, part of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, was built next to the tar pits in Hancock Park on Wilshire Boulevard. Construction began in 1975, and the museum opened to the public in 1977. It tells the story of the tar pits and presents specimens from them. Visitors can walk around the park and see the tar pits. On the grounds of the park are life-size models of prehistoric animals in or near the tar pits. Of more than 100 pits, only Pit 91 is still regularly excavated by researchers and can be seen at the Pit 91 viewing station. Paleontologists supervise and direct the work of volunteers.

On February 18, 2009, George C. Page Museum formally announced the 2006 discovery of 16 fossil deposits which had been removed from the ground during the construction of an underground parking garage for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art next to the tar pits. Among the finds are remains of a saber-toothed cat, six dire wolves, bison, horses, a giant ground sloth, turtles, snails, clams, millipedes, fish, gophers, and an American lion. Also discovered is a nearly intact mammoth skeleton, nicknamed Zed; the

only pieces missing are a rear leg, a vertebra and the top of its skull, which was sheared off by construction equipment in preparation to build the parking structure.

These fossils were packaged in boxes at the construction site and moved to a compound behind Pit 91, on Page museum property so that construction could continue. Twenty-three large accumulations of tar and specimens were taken to the Page Museum. These deposits are worked on under the name "Project 23". As work for the public transit Metro Purple Line is extended, museum researchers know more tar pits will be uncovered, for example near the intersection of Wilshire and Curson.

Among the prehistoric species associated with the La Brea Tar Pits are mammoths, dire wolves, short-faced bears, ground sloths, and the state fossil of California, the saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon fatalis*).

Only one human has been found, a partial skeleton of the La Brea Woman dated to approximately 10,000 calendar years (~9,000 radiocarbon years) BP, who was 17 to 25 years old at death and found associated with remains of a domestic dog, and so was interpreted to have been ceremonially interred. John C. Merriam of the University of California led much of the early work in identifying species in the early 20th century.

The park is known for producing myriad mammal fossils dating from the last glacial period. While mammal fossils generate significant interest, other fossils, including fossilized insects and plants, and even pollen grains, are also valued. These fossils help define a picture of what is thought to have been a cooler, moister climate in the Los Angeles basin during the glacial age. Among these fossils are microfossils, which are retrieved from a matrix of asphalt and sandy clay by washing with a solvent to remove the petroleum, then picking through the remains under a high-powered lens.

Tar pits around the world are unusual in accumulating more predators than prey. The reason for this is unknown, but one theory is that a large prey animal would die or become stuck in a tar pit, attracting predators across long distances. This predator trap would catch predators along with their prey. Another theory is that dire wolves and their prey may have been trapped during a hunt. Since modern wolves hunt in packs, each prey animal could take several wolves with it.

Rancho La Brea is the most famous, but two other asphalt pits in southern California contain fossils: the Carpinteria Tar Pits in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County and the McKittrick Tar Pits in McKittrick, in Kern County. Other asphalt deposits can be found in Texas, Peru, Trinidad, Iran, Russia, Venezuela, and Poland.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Mike & Margaret Henson's home, Santa Maria, CA.

November 5, 2013

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members present were Wes Lingerfelt, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Elaine Von Achen, Sandy Berthelot, Wayne Mills, Debbie Hood and Mike Henson. Paul Berthelot and Bill Hood were guests.

Minutes: Minutes of the October general meeting were read and approved with the correction of the December luncheon meeting cost being \$12.50 per person rather than \$12.00 per person as reported.

Treasurer's report: Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as given.

Correspondence: Elaine reported newsletters from San Geronio Gem and Mineral as well as Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral Societies. We also received a bill from the Nipomo High School for cost of hiring kitchen help for the snack bar. Wes believes this will be the last bill and he will finally be able to close the show report.

Committee Reports:

Annual Gem Show: None

Breakfast: November's breakfast will be held on the 23rd at the Sunset Grill, 1424 Fairway Drive, Santa Maria, at 9:00 a.m.

Bulletin: The bulletin is on line and will be mailed tomorrow, November 6, 2013.

CFMS: Wes will be going to the CFMS meeting on November 9, 2013 in Visalia.

Education: None

Field Trip: November's field trip will be held on Saturday the 23rd and will be to Cliff Brewen's tailgate in Paso Robles from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone will be on their own as to what time they get there. Directions to Cliff's place: Pass by Paso Robles and continue heading north on highway 101. When you get to Wellsona Road make a right and follow Cliff's signs. Any questions, please call Wes, Wayne or Elaine.

Highway Clean-up: The next highway clean-up will be held Saturday, November 9th. Members will meet at Highways 101 and 166 on the south east corner at 8:00 a.m.

Library: None

Membership: Elaine read an application for membership from Debbie Sprague. Debbie Hood made a motion that we accept Debbie for

membership. Sandy Berthelot seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Refreshments: Refreshment for the November General Meeting will be "cookies" donated by Geary Sheffer, Truman Burgess, Debbie Hood, Jeannie Lingerfelt and Elaine Von Achen.

Scholarship: None

Sunshine: Jan Ferguson was unable to attend the board meeting due to knee surgery. She is doing well and may make the general meeting.

Rainbow of Gems Show: None

Old Business: Wayne said he will make ballots for the November general meeting as the office of President Elect is being contested. Members will vote for either Dyanna Cridelich or Debbie Hood for President Elect. The following individuals have agreed to run for the following positions:

President: Elaine Von Achen

President Elect: Dyanna Cridelich and Debbie Hood

Secretary: Elaine Von Achen

Treasurer: Wes Lingerfelt

Immediate Past President: Wayne Mills

Board Members: Jan Ferguson, Sandy Berthelot, Jeannie Lingerfelt, John Von Achen, and Mike Henson.

Wayne will present the above slate of officers to the members at the general meeting and open the floor to nominations.

New Business: Wayne announced that we would be inviting the new elected officers and board members to attend the December board meeting as we have in the past.

Wes noted that we have been renting out our tables to various groups for the amount of \$3.00 per table and thought we might want to increase that amount. Elaine is going to call some of the rental places and see what they charge for table rentals and the board will re-visit this issue next month. November's program will be given by Dr. Gray from SBCC titled "The Fauna of the Rancho La Brea Terraces". Because Dr. Gray is coming from Santa Barbara, it has been decided that we will have the program first and after refreshments we will conduct the business part of the meeting.

For November we will have our annual 1x1 display and members will vote for their favorite. There will be a prize for the winner.

The meeting was adjourned by President Wayne

Mills at 7:53p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen

Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting

Luis Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA

November 12, 2013

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Hunter Pease-Bullock led the flag salute.

Minutes: Elaine Von Achen read the minutes from the November 5th, 2013 board meeting.

Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as given.

Correspondence: None

Hospitality: There were 31 members and 20 guests in attendance. Guests included Philip Behuhl, Scott Peimann, Amanda Allen, Aquino Lowen, Joseph Dimovich, Chris Smith, Mark Parker, Joey Walter, Julia Badrya, Nikki Arnush, Eddie Aurand, Zack Nelson, Christopher Ryan, Jim Mills, Beth Myers, Ivan Goetz, Kim Martinez, Dr. Bob Gray, Bruce Nybo, Jeanie Nybo and Katherine Nybo. Guests were asked to introduce themselves and were thanked for attending.

AT THIS TIME, a motion was made by Debbie Hood that we delay the rest of the business part of the meeting and have the evening's program as the speaker and most of the guests had long drives ahead of them following the program. We would continue the business meeting following the program. Wes Lingerfelt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our program for the evening was given by Dr. Richard Gray from SBCC and titled "The Fauna of the Rancho La Brea Terraces". Dr. Gray presented a slide show and talk, after which members and guests could view specimens of various animals found in and near the terraces. These specimens included parts of a giant sloth, a camel, a horse and more. It was a well-received program and our thanks to Dr. Gray.

Refreshments: Thanks to Geary Sheffer, Truman Burgess, Debbie Hood, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Margaret Henson and Elaine Von Achen for their donation of cookies for the evening.



Committee Reports:

Annual December Luncheon Meeting: This year's luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 7 at the Santa Maria Terrace at noon. Bill Hood was selling tickets for \$12.50 for adults and \$6.00 for kids under 12. We will have a gift exchange and members will bring canned goods for donation to the Salvation Army food bank.

Abused Children: None

Breakfast: November's breakfast will be held on the 23rd at the Sunset Grill, 1424 Fairway Drive, Santa Maria, at 9:00 a.m.

Bulletin: The bulletin is on the web as well as having been mailed. Wayne asked Debbie if she was going to submit a bulletin for this year's annual Bulletin Contest. She indicated that she thought it was already too late to enter. Wayne said there were still a few days and she said she would think about what month's issue she wanted to send in.

CFMS: Wes said that he and Jeannie had attended the CFMS meeting in Visalia and he reported that the ALAA (American Land Access Association) sponsored by the AFMS is trying to get the Clear Creek area open to the public again. He said he spent about 2 hours listening to people speaking on Clear Creek. He has posted the CCMA report on our website

Door Prizes: Mike Schmidt had lots of slabs and various other items for this evening's door prizes. He conducted the drawing immediately following the program so that guests who were leaving early would be able to participate. We had lots of winners who were students at SBCC.

Education: Joe Azevedo donated old issues of Rock & Gem magazines for our members as well as a microscope that had belonged to his father.

Gem Show: Wes gave the final report for the 2013 Rainbow of Gems show. Our gross income was \$15,291 and our profit was \$8,169. That amount worked out to \$1,116.91 for our scholarship fund. Elaine Von Achen made a motion that we round that amount to and even \$1,500. Debbie Hood seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Field Trip: November's field trip will be held on Saturday the 23rd and will be to Cliff Brewen's tailgate in Paso Robles from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone will be on their own as to what time they

get there. Directions to Cliff's place: Pass by Paso Robles and continue heading north on highway 101. When you get to Wellsona Road make a right and follow Cliff's signs. Any questions, please call Wes, Wayne or Elaine.

Highway Clean-up: The next highway clean-up will be held Saturday, November 16th. Members meet at highways 101 and 166 on the south east corner at 8:00 a.m.

Library: None

Membership: Elaine announced that Debbie Sprague was voted in as a new member at the November board meeting. Debbie was not in attendance.

Junior Members: None

Political Action Committee: None

Property: None

Scholarship:

Sunshine: Jan Ferguson had a knee replacement and is doing well. However, she was unable to attend the general meeting.

Old Business:

President Wayne Mills read the slate of officers nominated for 2014 as follows:

President: Elaine Von Achen

President Elect: Dyanna Cridelich and Debbie Hood

Secretary: Elaine Von Achen

Treasurer: Wes Lingerfelt

Immediate Past President: Wayne Mills

Board Members: Jan Ferguson, Sandy Berthelot, Jeannie Lingerfelt, John Von Achen and Mike Henson.

He then called for nominations from the floor and asked three times for each position. There being no further nominations, Wes Lingerfelt made a motion that we accept the uncontested offices by unanimous acclamation. Elaine Von Achen seconded the motion. Motion passed. The office of President Elect was put to a vote. OMS members voted Dyanna Cridelich as our new President Elect for 2014. Congratulations Dyanna.

New Business:

Wayne noted that he and Roberta Hall would be at Quartzsite from January 3rd through January 8th and was hoping anyone attending at that time would join him on a field trip.

Our display for November was a judged 1x1.

Participating members were Wayne Mills, Mike

Henson and Jeannie Lingerfelt. Wayne won and received a Brazilian Agate.

President Wayne Mills adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

SOLDERING A PIECE WITH STONES SET

IN IT- A question came up this week about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolette's onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts.

We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take a lot of heat, but

I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal.

Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If you're worried about soldering something close to a stone, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely. I've used a local shop twice in the last year, once for a piece with little emeralds a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.

JUMP RING WEAR- It's better to use a round jump ring on the end of a chain instead of an oval one. Oval rings will wear faster because tension on the chain concentrates wear on the smaller ends of the jump ring. Wear is distributed evenly on a round jump ring because it can rotate through the last link of the chain and the clasp. This gives the ring a longer useful life.

DENTAL GOLD- You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem.

Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal. I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. It ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If not, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick and then flow the metal again to make little gold balls for use for accents on your designs.

FILLING A HOLE- Sometimes while constructing a piece or finishing a casting, I will find a hole or dimple that should be filled. Everyone who has tried flowing a little more solder into one of these defects knows that it rarely works. Silver solder doesn't seem to fill small holes unless you give it some help. Here's how I do it.

For a roundish hole, I use a drill a little larger than the hole to make the cavity round. Then I fill the hole with a short length of silver wire and solder it in. Either choose a drill that is a good fit for the wire, or sand a slight taper on the end of the wire so it fits into the drilled hole. Then add a little solder around the wire.

To fill a dimple, I place solder into the cavity, add a scrap of silver big enough to cover the dimple, and solder. After pickling, file and sand off the excess metal and polish smooth.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at
[facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or
[yahoogroups.com/group/BenchTips/](https://www.yahoo.com/groups/BenchTips/)

December 2013 Calendar

Tuesday December 3, 2013 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting- At the home of the Henson's. All members are welcome at this business meeting. For information or directions please call Mike at 934-1308.
Tuesday December 7, 2013 Noon to 3:00 pm.	OMS Annual Meeting at Santa Maria Terrace. Bring canned Food for Salvation Army Food Drive, money for the Abused Children's Fund, and a (\$10.00 or less) gift for the gift exchange. <i>Please purchase your tickets in advance. There will be no selling of tickets at the door. For information call Bill Hood at 481-6860.</i>
	OMS Field Trip- there is no field trip scheduled for this month
	OMS Breakfast- there is no breakfast scheduled for this month.
	January 2014
Tuesday,	OMS Board Meeting- At the home of

January 7, 2014 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	the Henson's. All members are welcome at this business meeting. For information or directions please call Mike at 934-1308.
Tuesday January 14, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting- Luis Oasis Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., Old Orcutt. •Program- Something Interesting! •Display-Fossils. •Refreshments- Donuts
	OMS Field Trip- To be Announced
Saturday January 25, 2014 9:00-10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- The Girls Restaurant, 1237 Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**CFMS Society Shows
- 2013 -**

DECEMBER 2013

December 13 - 15: SAN BERNARDINO, CA. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Western Regional Little League Ball Park 6707 Little League Drive. Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily. Contact: Ken, (909) 381-0089 Email: kengard@roadrunner.com Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

- 2014 -

JANUARY 2014

January 18 - 19: EXETER, CA. Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia Exeter Veterans Memorial Building Highway 65, 324 N. Kaweah Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 – 4 Contact: Pepper Okada, (559) 733-5842 Email: Pepperok@clearwire.net Website: www.tulegem.org

FEBRUARY 2014

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA. San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Banning Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 46350 Arabia Street Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674, (951) 288-9025 cell Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 21 - 23: NEWARK, CA. Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6;

Sun 10 – 5 Contact: Cathy Miller Email: info@mgscv.org Website: www.mgscv.org

MARCH 2014

March 1 - 2: ARCADIA, CA. Monrovia Rockhounds Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Gardens 301 Baldwin Avenue Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624 Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com Website: www.Moroks.com Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 – 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

2014-OMS Officers	
Pres.	Elaine Von Achen
Pres. Elect	Dyanna Cridelich
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788
Immed. PastPres.	Wayne Mills
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788
2014- OMS Board Members	
Jeannie Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
John Von Achen	
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308
OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt –(805) 929-3788. Check out our OMS web site at http://www.omsinc.org or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org .	
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5.00 Juniors under age of 18, \$10.00. One time initiation fee for new members. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen.	

OMS Editor		
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860	debilhood1@sbcglobal.net

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEEETING 11/9/2013

The CFMS Directors report is in the OMS Website archives at:
<http://www.omsinc.org/archives/CFMS%20Director.pdf>

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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, 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

