



Ore-Cutts

Volume L Number 7

July 2016

The Pres Box—July 2016

Alexis Van Natta



Those of you who missed the **Semi Annual Meeting and Potluck BBQ** on June 11 at Pioneer Park in Santa Maria, missed a scrumptious feast. A big thank you goes out to Don and Sylvia Nasholm for all their hard work in buying

the beef, bread, set up, clean up, in fact organizing the event, to Wes Lingerfelt who did his magic on the Barbeque pit to cook the beef to perfection, to Wayne and Dyanna for organizing the silent rock auction, to Truman Burgess for the oak wood and Sally who made the coffee.

The silent auction was fun. I loved seeing the bidding go on in a friendly manner. There was a plethora of rocks to bid on. Everyone came away with some treasure, Dyanna and I took home more rocks than we brought to auction. I just can't resist a pretty rock. If you are in Santa Maria, stop in at the library. Dyanna and I have put in a display advertising the club and our upcoming Gem and Mineral Show in August.

Our **July Meeting has cake** for refreshments and I'm baking a Pineapple upside-down cake and I know that Sylvia, Margaret and Sharon will have our mouths watering with their cakes.

Our **program for July** will be very interesting and informative. Aaron Miller from Ancient Earth Trading Company in Cambria will

be presenting a talk on **buying minerals and fossils in Morocco**.

Keep your calendar open for the monthly no-host-and-getting-to-know-you **breakfast on July 30, at 8:30 am at Lil'Bits Café in Grover Beach**. Don't forget to bring your 1'x 1' display to the July meeting (practice for the 1 x 1 competition in November). See you on July 12, 7:00 pm, our next fun meeting.

Last but not least mark your calendar for **Highway Clean-up on July 9**. Meet at the southeast corner of Routes 101/166 East at 8:00 am.

Alexis

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthday greetings go out to those folks who are having birthdays and Anniversaries in March.

July Birthdays

Andrew Richey	7/8
Mike Henson	7/17

July Anniversaries

Joe and Lisa Azevedo	7/8/2015
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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 (April 2017)

SUNSHINE

Margaret Henson

Renea Sutcliff is home and recovering from hip surgery. Ralph Bishop continues to improve from his heart attack. Our good thoughts are with both members.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING— SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Pictures by: Alexis Van Natta, Margaret Henson and Wayne Mills

We met in Pioneer Park in Santa Maria at about 11 am (on June 11) to celebrate the ½ way mark in our year. The club furnished meat, beans, garlic bread and iced tea. Members brought a variety of side-dishes, salads and dessert. All of the 30 or so folks who showed-up seemed to get enough to eat, and (I am sure) no one went home hungry. WE had good conversations and a couple of tables full of rocks to bid on. The silent auction made \$141 for the club, and the sale of leftover top sirloin brought in an additional \$51

Many thanks are due the folks who helped make it happen, including Truman Burgess who brought the wood, Don and Sylvia Nasholm who brought the meat, beans and tea, Wes Lingerfelt who prepared the meat, Sally Griffith, and others who helped serve and clean-up, and everyone else who actively participated in the event.



Sylvia, Bob, Don and ? setting-up the food



Roger and Donna



Sally pouring, Lisa smiling



Wes and Truman grilling the meat to perfection



Sharon, Wayne and Dyanna working on the silent auction

CAMBRIA HOSTS “1ST ANNUAL” SLO CLUB GEM SHOW

Story and pictures by Wayne Mills

Due to the (relatively) last-minute closure of the Cayucos Veteran's Hall that has hosted the San Luis Gem Club Show for the last several years, a mad scramble for a new venue for the San Luis Club's June show took place. The winning venue (in more ways than one) was the Veteran's Hall in Cambria. I love that town anyhow, and the venue was great!

A friend and I took in the show and enjoyed many familiar (to me) faces among the dealers, including Richard Sittenger, Janice and Gary Robertson, Mike Lyons, Keith and Marcella Olivas, and Andy DeBoor. I was really pleased to see one of our former dealers, Mike Santos and his lovely wife, Charlotte wife at the show. Mike is now dealing in space-related objects'd art (mostly meteorites). He married Charlotte Stewart who used to play Miss Beadle on “Little House on the Prairie”!

I saw several things at the SLO Show that I had never seen before, and they were all at Richard Sittenger's Booth. One was Aragonite crystals replaced by jasper from Morocco, another was “Alphabet Agate” from Indonesia, and the third was Azurite in granite from Pakistan. My friend saw a couple of things she ‘needed’, including an eye jasper, a pink frog, and a spotted cow.

Congratulations are due to Mike Lyons (the Show Chair) and the other members of the SLO

Club who came through to make this show happen (in the first place), and a rousing success (in the second place).

More pictures can be found on Kim Noyes' Blog *Eclectic Arcana*



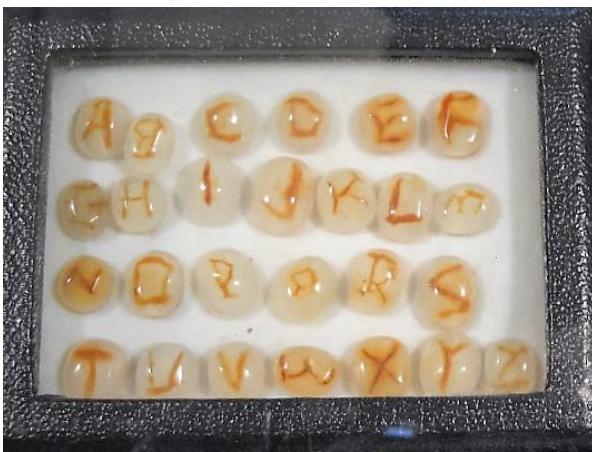
View from the stage



There were some real nice minerals and fossils at this show



Azurite in granite!! From K-2 (second highest mountain in the World) in Pakistan (\$1.00/Gram)



Alphabet Agate from Indonesia. Reputed to be one of about 50 sets in existence...and naturally occurring--



Aragonite replaced by jasper!! From Chubut, Argentina—I could say something, but I won't...



One of my favorite dealers from days gone by—Mike Santos and his recent bride, Charlotte Stewart

PIES FOR OMS SHOW

Sylvia Nasholm

In case you have not heard, the County is not giving us a pass this year. We will have to comply with health regulations and either bake and prepare all food items that we sell in a commercial kitchen or buy prepared foods and resell for a diminished profit. None of us has a SLO County certified kitchen so, we will try the already prepared items instead.

In order to help bump up our profits, I am asking each family to donate the sum of money they would have spent on making/buying a pie to help defray the cost to the Club for purchasing pies. Many of you attending the picnic were able to participate in a blind cherry pie tasting. The three mystery pies were from Avila Barn, California Fresh, and Coco's. Your least favorite was the Avila Barn pie. Your second choice was California Fresh. Your number one choice, getting double the votes of the other two combined was the pie from Coco's. I will be purchasing our pies from Coco's. AND they have offered the best deal to us on their pies! I will be at the July meeting and record each donation. You may also send a check to me or OMS -memo "Pie".

I thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to seeing you next month.

AARON MILLER ON BUYING FOSSILS AND MINERALS IN MOROCCO

Photos: Ancient Earth Web page--
https://www.facebook.com/ancientearthtradingco/photos_stream

Aaron Miller, owner of Ancient Earth Trading Company on Cambria, will present our July program on some of his experiences in Morocco while buying rocks, minerals and fossils for his store located at 750 Sheffield Dr. (off Main in the western portion of Cambria.



Aaron and his wife, Rachel are genial and informative hosts in their store that holds mainly materials mined in Morocco. But holds other wonders like the precious opals

from Spencer, Idaho that Aaron is now helping to uncover and sell. But that's another program...



BITS AND BYTES

A (reproduction of a) T-Rex named Sue is visiting the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Go say "Hi" before she leaves on September 11.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article84779002.html>

BIG DIAMOND!!

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/diamond-the-size-of-a-tennis-ball-could-fetch-dollar70-million>. Picture by the Associated Press



The largest diamond found in over a century will be auctioned by Sotheby's on June 29, 2016. The selling price is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$70 million. That is one expensive neighborhood!

The diamond was found in a Canadian-owned mine in Botswana in November, 2015. Named La Rona (The Light), it measures 1,109 carats, making it the second-largest gem-quality rough diamond ever discovered.

KID'S CORNER— Four Gems- Four Countries

Mini Miner Monthly Volume 8, Number 2 (Feb. 2014)

Brazilianite

Picture Mindat.org

Brazilianite (*Sodium aluminum phosphate hydroxide*) was named after the country in which it was first discovered, Brazil. It is yellow to yellow-green, rarely occurring as dark, olive green specimens. It was discovered in 1945 making it a fairly new gemstone.

Brazilianite is often found growing on and with silvery muscovite crystals.

These muscovite crystals form a shape that looks like a star.



As with the gemstone zoisite, **Brazilianite** is a newer gemstone and does not have old legends of healing or powers associated with it. However, some people today believe that **Brazilianite** helps a person meditate. **Previous page:** Greenish-yellow Brazilianite from **Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil.**

Benitoite

Picture: Spiriferminerals.com

Benitoite (*Barium titanium silicate*) is yet another new gemstone. It was first discovered in 1906 in San Benito County, California (can you see how it got its name?!) by James M. Couch who was camping in the hills. The story goes that he woke up to find the sunshine bouncing off of the faces of benitoite crystals that were on the ground around his campsite. Not only is benitoite a rare mineral but gem-quality crystals are even rarer. It is only found at this locality in California - it has never been found anywhere else in the world. Because of this fact, California adopted **benitoite** as its official state gem on October 1, 1985.

Right: A single benitoite crystal from **San Benito County, California.**



Peridot (Olivine)

Picture: Johnbettsfineminerals.com

Olivine (*Iron magnesium silicate*) is one of the most common minerals on Earth and is even found on the moon and in meteorites. It forms in dark igneous rock like basalt.

Gem quality olivine is called **peridot**. Even though olivine is very common, gem quality olivine is rarer. It is grass green. The more desired peridot gems are darker green.

Peridot is the birthstone for the month of August. Peridot is found in a type of meteorite known as Pallasite meteorites. It is, in fact, the only gemstone found in meteorites!

There are different legends about peridot. People in the Middle Ages believed wearing peridot would protect a person from evil spirits. Others thought it could make a person wealthy. The **peridot pictured at right is from St. John's Island, Red Sea, Egypt.**



Tanzanite / Zoisite

Pictures: (blue) [Picture Farlang.com](http://Farlang.com) Zoisite Green (with ruby) johnbettsfineminerals.com

Tanzanite (*Calcium aluminum silicate*) is a deep blue to purple variety of the mineral **zoisite**. This gemstone is one of the most recent gemstone discoveries. It was first discovered in 1967 in the country of Tanzania, from which it gets its name. Tanzanite has quickly become a very popular gemstone.

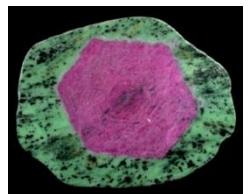
Some gems change color depending on how they are held in the light. This is a property called **pleochroism**. Most pleochroic gems display two colors. **Zoisite**, however, displays



three different colors depending on how it is held in the light. The color changes from blue, light purple and deep red. Because it shows three colors, it is described as being **trichroic**.

Both specimens shown are from **Tanzania**.

Many collectors are familiar with the ruby in zoisite (red in green). Fewer have seen the blue-purple gem variety.



**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—
BOARD MEETING
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce, Nipomo, CA
June 7, 2016**

President Alexis Van Natta called the meeting to order at 7:05 p. m. Board members present were Alexis Van Natta, Wayne Mills, Sylvia Nasholm, Don Nasholm, Jeanne Watkins, Sally Griffith, Sharon Duncan and Dyanna Cridelich. Jan Ferguson was absent. No guests were present.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as corrected in the June bulletin.

Treasurer's report: Jeanne Watkins gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as given. Jeanne Watkins has been updating our use and city agreements. There was no insurance for Pioneer Park last year. That has been corrected this year. Jeanne has also been in touch with the Attorney General's office regarding raffle requirements. Space rentals for the Gem show are doing well and we are ahead of the game.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Karen and Richard Dry thanking us for sending them the red book. They are living in Pennsylvania next to their daughter. There was a letter from the Native American Christian Academy thanking us for supporting the Box Tops and Labels for Education program. A letter from the American Association of University Women came, thanking us for providing the tables for their book sale. Newsletters from the Santa Lucia Rockhounds and Mineral, Gem and Fossil Asia were received.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: \$55.91 was collected for the Abused Children's last month.

Annual December Luncheon: Nothing this month.

Annual Gem Show:

We spoke at length about advertising for our Gem Show. It was brought to our attention that the Paso Robles club had printed out 2000 nice postcards advertising their show for \$135.00. Wayne Mills made a motion that we put aside \$750.00 for advertising for June and July for the Annual Gem Show. Sylvia Nasholm seconded the motion and the motion was carried. This would include 1/4 page ads in the New Times and the Sun. Sharon Duncan suggested asking some of the local store owners in the area to post and distribute the little flyers in their stores.

Sharon Duncan told us that the Porta Potties have been ordered. She also said that the last day to hold dealer's spots is June 18th. After that day, she will give the spaces to the dealers on the waiting list.

Sylvia Nasholm said that Stan is agreeable to using his truck to haul cases and tables to the Nipomo High School. The one thing we need is muscle power. It was suggested that we go to the schools to see if the teachers could give extra-curricular credit for helping. If you can or know someone who can help out, please contact us.

One of our dealers has a space, but needs someone to pick her and her merchandise up and deliver them to the show. If anyone has a truck, please let anyone on the board know.

Sylvia Nasholm is purchasing three cherry pies and will be bringing them to the picnic at Pioneer Park. We will then do a taste test and vote to see which one will be purchased for our Gem Show. Sylvia has found all the ways to make the county happy. To do this, all four sides of her 12 x 12 foot pop-up needs to be netted for sanitation purposes.

Sign-up sheets for working at the Rainbow of Gems show at Nipomo High School will be passed out at our next general meeting. Please sign up for something that attracts your interest. If we all work together, it will be a great show

Bulletin: The Bulletin is out and looks really good.

CFMS: None

Field Trips: Our Semi- Annual Meeting and Potluck BBQ at Pioneer Park on June 11 is our field club for June.

Highway Cleanup: Our next Highway cleanup will be held July 9, 2016 at 8:00am. Members will meet on the South East corner of Highways 101 and 166.

Membership: Tara Machin is now a full-fledged member. Her badge and pin is on order.

Refreshments: Sally Griffith said that she will be bringing coffee and all the fix in's to our Potluck BBQ at Pioneer Park. Sylvia Nasholm will bring the teas.

Sunshine: Everyone seems to be A-Okay this month.

Scholarship: none

Old Business:

Sharon Duncan will send around a sign-up sheet at the Pioneer Park picnic to see if there is any interest in purchasing tee shirts. They will have the same design as the regular red ones that we have had in the past with the large emblem on the front.

Dyanna Cridelich looked up the prices for the kid's Coloring Books. There are 10 different books. Most of them are \$15.00 for 10 books postpaid. One of them is \$17.50 for 10. Sharon Duncan will check to see what ones we have left. Dyanna Cridelich will call the publishing company to see if we can mix the books or if we have to buy in multiples of 10.

The Semi- Annual Meeting and Potluck BBQ will be at Pioneer Park on June 11: The OMS will supply the meat, bread and coffee. Members will bring a side dish or dessert. Members should also bring their own drinks, utensils, plates, tablecloth, and any other things they may need. They also should bring any rocks for the silent auction. Truman is bringing the wood.

New Business:

The G-Brothers have returned our letter regarding the August Gem Show. They have changed the charge for the Saturday Night BBQ from \$10.00 to \$12.00. We need to let Wes Lingerfelt know to change the price on the tickets before he prints them.

Alexis Van Natta and Dyanna Cridelich have put an OMS display in the Santa Maria Public Library. It will be on display the entire months of June and July. Please go and have a look. It is directly across from the checkout desk on the main floor and nicely advertises the Rock and Gem Show in Nipomo as well as the OMS itself.

Alexis Van Natta noticed that our August show date is not showing up in the printed CFMS Newsletter. Wayne Mills will check into this.

President Alexis Van Natta adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary,
OMS

**No minutes from the Semi-Annual Meeting—
we just had fun!!**

OMS CALENDAR	
JULY 2016	
Tuesday, July 5 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room, All members are welcome at this meeting
Saturday, July 9 8 am	Highway clean-up SE corner Rtes. 101/166 East
Tuesday, July 12 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting— Luis Oasis Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program-Aaron Miller Buying Rocks and Fossils in Morocco • Display—1' x 1' Anything Refreshments-Cake
Saturday, July 23 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Little Bits, Grover Beach

AUGUST 2016

Tuesday, July 5 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room, All members are welcome at this meeting
Friday-Sunday August 5-7; 10-5 Fri-Sat, 10-4 Sun	OMS Gem Show , Nipomo High School
Tuesday, August 9 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting— Luis Oasis Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program-Sir Paul Howard—Collecting the World's Oldest Agates (in Australia) • Display—Agates, Anything Refreshments-Cookies
Saturday, August 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-Denny's, Santa Maria

CFMS SHOWS

JULY

No shows...

AUGUST

August 5-7: Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School
525 Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA
Hours: Fri., Sat., 10 am-5 pm
Sunday 10 am-4 pm.
Contact: Wayne W. Mills, (805) 481-3495
e-mail: wwmills50@hotmail.com
Website: omsinc.org

August 13 - 14: SAN FRANCISCO, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Contact: Ellen Nott, (415) 564-4230
Email: ellen_nott@yahoo.com
Website: www.sfgemshow.org

OUR SHOW IS COMING UP IN ONE MONTH!

☞ **PLEASE** save the dates August 3-8 to help set-up, run the show and clean-up afterwards. **We will have sign-up sheets at our July meeting** for Hospitality, Treasure Chest, Pie Booth and Kid's Activities. **PLEASE** pick some time slots in a couple of activities to help us out.

☞ **PLEASE** think about putting in a case of your favorite rocks. (See case application form in the May and June newsletters) and get it to Sylvia Nasholm ASAP!.

☞ Let's try to make our **49th Annual Show** one to remember (in a good way).



2016-OMS Officers

President	Alexis Van Natta	(805) 937-4347
President-Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
Treasurer	Jeanne Watkins	(805) 481-1811
Imm. Past Pres.	Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347

2016-OMS Board Members

Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Don Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923

CFMS Federation Director

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
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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 Dyanna Cridelich** (805) 937-4347

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](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	wwmills50@hotmail.com
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Materials displayed at our May meeting: Virginia Rogers' Brazil agate slabs, The Henson's fossils, Wayne Mills' carved heart

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

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 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.