



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLVII Number 3

March 2011

Please join us on March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the **Luis Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Ave. in OLD ORCUTT.**

The **program** will be on Intarsia.

The display will be Intarsia. As always you are welcome to share anything "rocky" that you would like.

The **Dessert** this month will be Cakes brought to us by Sylvia Nasholm, Sharon Duncan, Laura Gebhart & Margaret Hansen. Also, since so we need a couple of more volunteers to bring cakes in March, can you help out? Please speak to Margaret Hensen if you can.

THE PREZ BOX

By Gloria Dana

Yeah, you all, how'd you like the weather out there? I myself can't stand it. I mean some days it's cold, and some days it's raining, and some times it's just both. I think every one has had their share of the flu and colds misery. I did too.

Well I guess the field trip was a field trip. I didn't get to go. I was ready for it, but the weather said "NO!," it had to rain that day. But if any one else went? Please fill us in at the next meeting.

Oh, I can't wait for the next board meeting! There will be a lot to discuss. I think the board meeting will take place at a warmer place so people can relax. But it's still cold out there. All I can say is, winter showers *better* bring spring flowers, and good ones too, along with warmer weather.

Hey, does any one have any ideas on where we could go for a long weekend Field trip??? I'm game, but it has to be somewhere where we can camp and look for rocks. Any ideas? Well, with that there's not much more to say except, hope to see yah at the meeting and pray for sunny skies and *warm* weather. Your Prez, Gloria



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Celebrating **birthdays** in March are Bill Hood, Roger Lehman, & Jeannie Lingerfelt, and a very *Happy Birthday!* to you all.

Celebrating **Wedding Anniversaries** for March are Lee & Betty Reyburn and Carl & Kelly Tapper-*May you enjoy many more!*



Sunshine

Mike Henson is doing much better and we hope to see him at the meeting. Sylvia & Don brought a very nasty bug home from Washington State when they visited there, it turned into bronchitis, but they are both getting better now.



Wes Lingerfelt has been battling sinus & Cluster Headache problems and says he thinks he is winning...we sure hope so!

Basic Faceting For Dummies

By Don Dana

INTRODUCTION: The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) defines a gemstone as a mineral that is worn for personal adornment; that possesses beauty of color, luster and perfection of cutting; rarity; and, durability. Faceting is the art and science of cutting and polishing of a series of flat reflective surfaces on a piece of transparent gemstone material. The flat surfaces are called facets. Refractions of light from the interior of the stone provide a viewer with many patches of light. The patches of light appear, disappear and reappear at the slight movement of the gem. I prefer to think that faceting is more the shaping and bending of light as opposed to the cutting and polishing of a stone. The stone is the vehicle for the light.

There is a wonderful book titled Faceting History: cutting diamonds and colored stones, by Glenn Klein.

Before one gets started faceting, whether as a hobby or for business, or both, I cannot overemphasize the amount of research one should do first. Good quality faceting machines are expensive, and a lot of accessories are also required. And then there is the rough. Faceting is not a cheap endeavor. Also, the more gemology an aspiring facetter knows, the better a facetter he/she will be. Gemology and faceting are inextricably linked.

RESOURCES: Surprisingly, there are a lot of resources and sources of information for this rather obscure art.

One of the key reference works is Faceting for Amateurs by Glenn and Martha Vargas. Glenn Vargas is widely regarded as one of the most prominent facetter and instructor of faceting. There are also companion volumes to that work with designs, but we'll get to that later.

For me, one of the most important and helpful reference works is Learn How to Facet The Right Way . . ., by the late great Jeff R. Gram. Jeff Gram was a master facetter and designer who unfortunately passed away a couple of years ago at an early age.

There are many websites and clubs. I'll just mention:
United States Facetter Guild:

<http://www.usfacetersguild.org> is a national group that provides a wealth of information for beginners and advanced alike, and promotes the improvements of cutters skills via national and international competitions. Members receive newsletters with great information. Their website has many articles and designs. The USFG also has an online discussion group at Yahoo Groups, USFG Faceters List. That is also a most invaluable resource.

The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club of Tucson, Arizona, [http://lapidaryclub.org/](http://lapidaryclub.org) has a Faceters CD that is freely available. It too has lots of articles and designs.

Those two sites have lots of links to other sites and resources

For gemology, see the Gemological Institute of America. <http://www.gia.edu/> This is an outstanding school not only for gemology, but for jewelry artists also.

MACHINES: There are a handful of manufacturers of faceting machines:

The widely acknowledged best, top of the line is the GemMaster II by Fac-ette. It is also the most expensive. Its current price is \$4,675.50.

The second best is the Ultra-Tech, which is what I have. Current price: \$3400 to \$4000.

There are others, such as the Facetron, Graves, and Omni. At the late Jeff Gram's website, <http://www.faceters.com/>, there are many articles. One of those is a comparison of the different machines available that includes an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each model of faceting machines. A lot of people can get pretty touchy and sensitive about this topic, and Jeff was known to be quite the no-nonsense kind of guy . . .

There are many factors to consider when choosing a machine, but we'll go over just a few: History of manufacturer and level of service available; accuracy; ease of use; fixed quill or platform; belt drive or direct drive;

Faceting machines are made with right-handed persons in mind. If you're left-handed, are left handed machines

and index gears available? Or can you use your right hand?

There are amazing advances in equipment for concave and fantasy cutting. But that could be an entirely separate presentation . . .

The main parts of the machine are the base and the mast. The base has a motor underneath which spins the platen onto which the laps are attached. The motor can drive the platen by a belt or by a direct drive. The mast raises and lowers the quill, to which the dopped stone is attached. The mast and quill provide for 3 axes of motion, the x, y and z axis of normal space. Concave and fantasy cutting machines add more axes, and different index gears are available.

OTHER TOOLS AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT:

- OK, so an expensive machine is just the beginning. Here's a pretty comprehensive list of some of the other absolutely needed items one needs to facet gemstones:
- Good loupe: 10x, ideally triplet, corrected
- Optivisor, w/opti-loupe
- Calipers
- Alcohol lamp and denatured alcohol
- Dopping wax
- Or, alternatively, adhesives for doping, such as superglue – cyanoacrylate
- Carat scale
- Dops
- Laps
- Lamp
- Lint free wipes
- 45-degree table block
- Alignment tool (should be included with machine)
- Dopping transfer block

LAPS: This is another subject that people get very sensitive about. A good collection of laps is like a quiver full of arrows. You can get by with just a few basics, but it's nice to have a range of specialty tools to help you out of a jam, such as when the polish on that one facet just won't come in . . .the laps are based on standard grit sizes. Good laps can be expensive, but cheap ones are available. But like with most things in life, a cheap tool is an expensive tool. You'll get what you pay for. So when you're working with some valuable rough that will produce an even more valuable finished gemstone, why skimp upfront on one of the most important tools? There are many types, so price varies, and we cannot give an average. For hobby purposes, some basic laps will cost around \$130 each, but specialty laps can go up to \$400.

- 260 coarse cutting
- 300 cutting
- 600 medium
- 1200 fine

A Master lap (plain, no grit) is used for Mylar film laps, such as Spectra Ultralaps which are great for polishing.

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Master laps are also needed for thinner laps, such as the Nubond composite laps. The Nubond 600 and 1200 are especially useful. Also used for low-cost toppers.

Polishing:

Zinc (hard to find anymore.)

Better alternatives are the BATT laps. These need to be charged with diamond grit powder. That's a whole other subject too, friable vs. non-friable.

Copper – not so much anymore now that modern hi-tech alloys like the BATT are available.

Ceramic, corian: specialty polishing, for very hard materials such as sapphires, CZ, helps prevent rounding of facet edges, but are very difficult to learn to use properly.

Wax: specialty. Have to make your own. Fused for extremely soft rough. Sometimes it seems like there are new kinds coming out all the time

ROUGH MATERIAL: In choosing rough material, knowledge of gemology cannot be understated. Also, what are one's goals? Someone who just wants to have fun can cut glass or quartz or other low cost material. The end result is still a pretty gem that sparkles. But if one is interested in selling the cut stones or using it in finished jewelry for sale, then knowledge of current affairs in the trade and market awareness is indispensable.

This presentation is not about gemology, but a facetter should learn as much gemology as possible, not only to maximize the value of the final piece, but also to know what rough to purchase and what not to purchase. This is certainly not a comprehensive list, and each one of these topics can fill volumes:

- Color: tone and saturation (or, hue and value) zoning, pleochroism
- Phenomena: brilliance, dispersion, color change, play of color, adularescence, chatoyancy, asterism, labradorescence, iridescence, orient, aventurescence.
- Chemistry and Crystal systems
- Cleavage
- Hardness
- Toughness
- Inclusions
- The four c's: color, clarity, carat, cut
- Rarity
- Treatments, synthetics, imitations, disclosure.
- Durability, care and cleaning.

For our purposes here tonight, I'll just mention the "white card test." When evaluating or choosing rough material to cut, have with you a white index card with some writing on it. Hold the rough against the white index card. If you cannot see the lettering on the card through the rough, do not buy that rough.

Rough is available at local shows, at larger shows such as at Quartzite and Tucson, and also via the Internet. I've had good success getting quality rough at all of those. I've

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also had some not so great success at each of those. I will mention some dealers whom I've come to trust:

- John Franke
- Robert Lowe
- Farooq Hasmi

If someone wants contact information, please see me and I can get it for you.

DESIGNS: OK, so now we have our machines and tools, an understanding of what we're doing and some rough to cut. Now, what are we going to do with it? There are thousands and thousands of designs available. There are standard round brilliants, what you think of as your normal diamond shape. There are emerald cuts. And then there are hybrids of those two basics. And then there are fantasy cuts that don't really fit either generic type.

With the advance of computers, the designs available for cutting gemstones have improved drastically. The resulting color, brilliance and dispersion can be optimized to a degree that was not possible forty years ago. Some people cut on the fly and design by improvisation. But I would not recommend that, especially if one is working with valuable rough. The odds of hitting the critical angles and getting an outstanding stone are just not worth the risk of a dull, lifeless stone.

One uses the cutting angle, index setting and mast height, to accomplish the three axes of rotation. Concave and fantasy cutting add additional dimensions or axes of rotation.

The majority of patterns are based on a 96 degree index gear, (3.75 degrees x 96 = 360 degrees of a circle) which gives a certain amount of symmetry -- four, eight and sixteen, and so forth. Other index gears are available for unique shapes and symmetries. 7's, 11's, and so forth. But try to find a jeweler willing to set such odd shapes!!

There are computer programs such as Gemcad that produce a standardized design format. A couple of examples are available in the PowerPoint slide show. These are different from the older format of designs that were common before the advent of computers. Those are type referred to above in the Vargas series. An example of that is also shown.

Sources for designs are referred to above and in the slides. Over the years, I've assembled a library of thousands of designs that are available to the public free of charge. If anyone would like to obtain copies, I'd be happy to share. There are many designs that are not freely available and must be purchased. However, even those that are freely available are still copyrighted. Cutters are free to use the design and even sell the stone. It is expected that the cutter cite the source of the design and give the designer credit when selling such a stone. But cutters are not free to sell the designs to others.

DOPPING: Dopping is attaching the rough to a straight piece of metal that attaches into the quill of the faceting

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machine. There are two ways to dop: 1) wax, or 2) chemical adhesives. For wax, there are various types based on color, and the color indicates heat sensitivity: green, red, black and brown. Green and red are typically used for cabochons and are not strong enough to withstand the forces exerted on the rough by the machine. Black wax and brown diamond setter's wax melt at much higher temperatures than green and red wax. I also find them more difficult to use than adhesives.

The most common adhesive to use is superglue – cyanoacrylate – but other cutters swear by two part epoxy resins. I personally found epoxies not as stable as cyanoacrylate. But one must remember that CA is water-soluble. When faceting, you're running a constant stream of water (or some other cutting coolant/lubricant, such as WD-40) on the lap to keep things cool, so you need to protect the CA with a layer of clear finger nail polish.

When doping, it is critical to attach the stone while keeping in mind gemology. Where are the cleavage planes? What about color zoning? Inclusions? You want to visualize your finished piece and attach the rough in such a way as to maximize color and clarity quality, and yet also balance out weight. It is difficult to optimize all three of the color, clarity and carat – somewhere you have to strike a balance. Remember, nature controls 3 of the 4 C's (color, clarity, carat), man only controls the cut.

The vast majority of facetters start with the pavilion (the bottom of the stone) and then proceed to the crown. But there are those who disagree ...

The only way to get good at doping, whether with wax or adhesives, is practice, practice, practice . . .

CUTTING AND POLISHING: We've actually now arrived at the fun part. And usually it is also the easiest part. The rough needs to gradually be worn down to the general shape or outline of your design. This is the roughing in stage and is done with the coarse laps, usually 260 grit. The optimum sequence of grits in cutting and polishing, as well as choice of lap material, will vary from stone to stone. Certain material responds well to one combination and not to another combination; and then a different material stone will respond to the opposite combination. Vargas is a good source of what combination of lap and cutting/polishing agent are recommended for a wide variety of material.

After the 'rough in' with a coarse lap, the facets start to take shape with a 600, to a 1200, to a 5,000 grit sequence of laps. (Again, depending on the material. Some steps can be skipped. Polishing is then with 10,000 to 50,000.) For a real fine shine, I sometimes go to 100,000. International competitors often go to 200,000. Commercial stones for purchase at your local mall type jewelry store will never get a polish at 100,000 or 200,000. Keep in mind, the number of facets and how

many times each one of those individual facets has to get repeated and matched up exactly.

First the bottom facets are cut, then the tiers of each succeeding row of the pavilion and crown. Each subsequent tier up gets more and more difficult to correctly place and have all your meet points match up correctly.

When the pavilion is complete, the quill is removed from the machine. It is then placed in what is called a transfer block. The transfer block is also machined to a high degree of accuracy. The dop with the stone is placed in one end. The other end of the block has a corresponding dop that will fit onto the culet of the finished pavilion. Adhesive is placed on the dop and the two dops are joined together and then clamped down. Once the wax or glue has sufficiently cured, the dops are removed from the block. The dop that is on the crown end is removed, and the dop with the pavilion end is now placed in the facet machine.

The cutting and polishing of the crown then proceeds. Care must be taken to ensure that the facets of the pavilion and crown align properly. It is normal during the transfer for the alignment to be a little bit off, so micro-adjustments are made to the cutting angle and index gear setting.

Sometimes faceting can be frustrating and a trail of tears. But when you finish stone and give it to your special someone, that makes it all worth the effort.

Santa Barbara Gem (Bead) Show

By Wayne Mills

This past Saturday (February 19), my son Todd and I checked out the annual Santa Barbara gem show at the Earl Warren Fairgrounds. It was an off and on rainy day, but we made it down to Santa Barbara about noon. After I hit a couple of schools (metal detecting), we went to the fairgrounds, paid our \$7.00 (each) admission charge, and headed for Woody's (in the Fairgrounds) to get some lunch. After lunch we went into one of the buildings and saw beads from one end of the building to the other. There were a few dealers selling other materials (fossils, minerals, cabs, and findings, but "buy" and large it is a bead show. Bad for me, good for all the ladies who were checking out all the many-colored bead strands-the prices on many of them (the beads I mean,) seemed quite reasonable.

We ran into the Fergusons, and Jan told me that, yes, it is a bead show. Don't know how I have been in the club for 16 years and didn't know that, but now I do. The one dealer I recognized was Dave Richter, accompanied by Kim Noyes, one of our members. Dave seemed pretty busy NOT selling beads (*Editors Note: Dave sells mostly minerals & fossils.*) and that is perhaps why he was there.



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I did find a quartz crystal with a lighted base, something I have been seeking for a while. So it wasn't a totally lost day. I also found a toy car and a lovely ring with a pink stone with the metal detector. The ring gave me a quite a thrill until I realized that the stone was made of plastic, and the silver color was coming off the underlying copper. (Speaking of fakes, see below.)

The drive home Saturday night was pretty exciting. We got into a couple of torrential downpours going up San Marcos Pass, then we got stopped for about 10 minutes in the middle of the Cold Springs Arch Bridge, by traffic that had been halted by the police. When we got home, we found out that another person had jumped off the bridge, site of the highest number of highway fatalities in Caltrans District 5.

(This article contains no pictures, because the gem show forbids the taking of anything, including photographs.)

If the Price is Too Good to Be True...

kenrogers4u@juno.com (via LA Rocks, Sun, Feb 20, 2011)

Lately, I have visited a number of "Gem Shows" in the Los Angeles area (Gem Faire, International Gem & Jewelry Show, The Los Angeles Gift Show, The Pasadena Bead & Design Show), plus a number of Rock Club shows. All of these shows have a plethora of "Gemstone" bead dealers. I was astonished when I realized that over 50% of the Gemstone beads for sale were either created from Man Made materials, recomposed natural materials, or Dyed stone.

Many of these gemstone beads (& cabs) were blatant fakes - dyed agates, chalcedonies, shell, jasper, etc. - dyed in "Pop designer colors". But, there were many other dyed stone beads (& cabs) that were meant to fool us.

Many of the other gem beads were finely engineered Fakes, using such materials as Man made HYDRO QUARTZ CRYSTAL (check:

<http://www.faceters.com/askjeff/answer30.shtml> and you'll be shocked about your cut stones, & some rough, too), plus glass, plastics, and cemented conglomerates.

Below are a few specific examples of Beads, Cabs, & Pendant fakes: I have checked out:

* Turquoise ribbons in a mottled tan "rhyolite" matrix (like material from the Royston Mine) being sold as "Royston" or "Sleeping Beauty" Turquoise. This material is being created in China and can be spotted two ways. - 1) the dividing line between the "turquoise" & the matrix is indistinct; 2) Under 10-power magnification you can see the "rhyolite"

matrix is made up of cemented particles.

* Variscite that is actually dyed Impression Jasper.

* Fake "Rainbow Calcilica" (which is already said to be a fake). This material, created in China is very smooth & homogenized, and doesn't have the texture of the original.

Dealers are, also, selling it as "Fordite".

* Fake Moldavite. Cast green glass with the Moldavite "fingerprint" texture on it's surface. It's "fingerprint" textured surface looks too clean and smooth.

* "Cripple Creek Turquoise" with gold veins running through it. This material is created in China from a turquoise powder (maybe plastic) and bronze wires.

* Lapis with Pyrite chunks AND

Malachite with Pyrite chunks. These are both created in China from ground Lapis & ground Pyrite (or Malachite & Pyrite) and bound together with resin.

* Lapis and other opaque "crystals" that are cut to look like Quartz Crystals (for the metaphysical crowd).

* Howellite & Magnesite dyed to resemble Turquoise, Lapis, Rhodonite, etc.

* Fossil dinosaur teeth made of painted plaster.

* Stabilized and color-shot Chalk Turquoise in different colors. I think everyone is familiar with this.

I would have to say that many of these dealers (generally Asian) didn't/don't know they are selling fakes (& probably couldn't care less). They just pass on what their suppliers tell them. But, I do know of a couple of dealers who pass themselves off as "experts" and are knowingly misleading customers and selling fakes.

I picked up a wonderful, compact, inexpensive, lighted magnifier from Wendell, at Ameritool, that I now carry with me, everywhere. It has two lenses - 17X & 50X. It has two LED lamps - daylight and UV. With this simple lighted magnifier I have spotted a number of fakes that had fooled me. It's paid for itself, many times over.



INTER-

REGIONAL ROCKHOUND

RENDEZVOUS AND FIELD TRIP



May 27 – 30, 2011 Hampton Butte, OR

The Northwest and California Federations of mineralogical Societies are hosting an Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Central Oregon over Memorial Day Weekend 2011 for Petrified Wood, agate and Obsidian!! And all AFMS society members and guests are invited.

Directions: From the South – Traveling east or west on US 20 turn north on Van Lake Rd. (mile marker 52) go North approximately 16 miles. Watch for camp signs as you approach Camp Creek road. Road is a maintained gravel road.

Directions: From the North – Driving from Prineville, Oregon go east on highway 380 to mile marker 44, turn

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South (or right) on Camp Creek road and drive south until you get to the junction of Van Lake Rd. Watch for signs (All but the last several miles are paved.)

Facilities: The campground is a large pasture. This is a “dry camping” area and with portapotties. It can accommodate all sizes of motorhomes and trailers and is also very good for tenters. You will be camping on private property and need to follow some basic rules: No off road except camp area, no cutting of firewood and **NO ROCK COLLECTING ON THE RANCH.** If you have questions check with camp host.

Collecting Trips: The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at **8:30 AM, SHARP!!!**, from the campground. We will be running a maximum of 50 collectors to three separate locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You will have to signup

each day on a first come first served.

THREE TRIPS WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE THREE LOCATIONS EACH OF THE THREE DAYS.

Schedule: Thursday, May 26: arrive at camp, welcome potluck dinner and get together with campfire. Friday, May 27: Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek Area. Evening: BLM * Talk on Geology of the Area, USFS * Newly Discovered Calderas, Camp Fire

Saturday, May 28: Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek Area. Evening: All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner and Camp Fire Sunday, May 28: Daily Field Trips #1 Hampton Butte #2 Paulina Area #3 Camp Creek Afternoon and Evening: Rock Swap, Wood identification by Walt Wright. Monday, May 30: Daily Field Trips Glass Butte. Open Day you may go to any of the collecting areas Tuesday, May 31: Break camp to head for home or other adventures Plan on several potluck dinners, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, but no later than May 20 if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share, trade or sell. Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Doug True & Richard Pankey

Northwest Federation California Federation

dtruefossils@yahoo.com dickpankey@juno.com

406-670-0506 or 925-439-7509



General Information

Central Oregon is known for petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs. This Rendezvous will be to the Hampton Butte green petrified wood area, the Paulina area for pink, green and blue limb casts and to Glass Butte for a big variety of obsidian. Trip logs will be available to 8 to 10 other nearby sites for agate, thunder eggs, jasper and petrified wood for self-guided collecting trips. These trips will include: Muary Mtn. jasper, Bear Creek petrified wood, Eagle

Rock dendritic/moss agate, Ochoco thunder eggs, and several other petrified wood and thunder egg sites.

Daily Field Trips:

All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Pacific Time), **SHARP**, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas. All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability. We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day.

Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a signup sheet each day for each site. There is float collecting and digging. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment and what ever else you usually bring.

High clearance vehicles highly recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them. Gas and supplies can be purchased in **Prineville** and at **Post** located on Highway 380 mile marker 25. E. Motels; Best Western, Prineville Inn, (541)-447-8080, Stafford Inn, (541)-447-7100, Econolodge (541) 447-6231 Gas?? Groceries, etc.??

RV-Parks - Crook County RV Park (541) 447-2599, Lake Shore RV, (541)-447-6059.

We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday evening and the all Rendezvous Potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood. Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite home collecting area to show and swap at the tailgate display. This will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings and information about your favorite home collecting areas. There are a lot of other Rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting, Rabobank, Nipomo, Ca., February 1, 2011



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President Gloria Dana called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members present were Wes Lingerfelt, Debbie Hood, Gloria Dana, Don Dana, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Sylvia Nasholm, Elaine Von Achen, Sandy Berthelot and Jan Ferguson. Guests included Bill Hood and Paul Berthelot.

Minutes: Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the January general meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

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

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported a newsletter from the Carmel Valley Prospector as well as one from San Geronio Gem and Mineral Society.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: Jan Ferguson read a thank you letter from Kids Fund for Foster Children of Santa Maria thanking us for our \$500.00 donation on the 16th of December.

Jan also noted that she was giving all specimens, minerals, etc., formerly used as prizes for the abused children, to Wes for the monthly prize drawing. She will have a donation canister available and will ask members if they would like to donate to the fund.

Annual Gem Show: Wes said the contracts for 2011 have been either passed out to dealers he met up with in Quartzsite or have been mailed. Wes noted that he has signed a contract with St. Joseph's church and everything is on course for our coming show.

Annual Dinner: It was noted that our annual luncheon meeting would be held December 10, 2011.

Audit: We will call for an audit of the books at the general meeting. Don Nasholm will audit.

Breakfast: February's breakfast will be held at Sunrise Grill at Sunset Ridge Golf Center, 1424 W. Fairway Drive, Santa Maria at 9:00 a.m. on the 26th of the month.

Bulletin: The Bulletin is on line and has been mailed.

CFMS: None

Education: None

Field Trip: February 19th will be our next field trip and will be to Willow Creek to look for jade. Members will meet at the Bob Jones Trail head at 8:00 a.m.

Highway Clean up: The next highway clean-up will be held March 12th. Members will meet at Highway 101 and 166 on the South East corner at 8:00 a.m.

Library: None.

Membership: None.

Refreshments: February's refreshment will be pies.

Scholarship: None.

Sunshine: Mike Henson has been under the weather and Wes Lingerfelt has been taking medication for a sinus condition.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt said that our tables have been reserved by the Succulent Society for their annual show, and that the Women's Book Club in Arroyo Grande will use them as well. Income from the rental of tables goes into the property rental fund.

Wes reported that he would be giving a talk to the Fresno Gem and Mineral Society on several subjects of interest to non-profits including state and federal taxes, the internet and website considerations and financial matters relevant to non-profits. He will give his talk to the board at their next board meeting February 3rd.

Gloria Dana said that she plans to ask the general membership if anyone would be interested in being an assistant to Bob Bullock as he could use help with the field trips during times when he is unable to attend.

February's program will be given by Don Dana and will be on "Faceting".

February's display will be anything that coordinates with the program.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Gloria Dana at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Luis Oasis Senior Center - Orcutt, Ca. February 8, 2011

President Gloria Dana called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Gloria Dana gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Sheriff, Bill Hood said everyone had nametags.

Minutes: Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the February 1, 2011 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: Sharon Duncan reported 35 members and 6 guests in attendance. Guests included Mike O'Donnell, Nick Carpenter, Deborah Park, Michael Van Belleghem, Jane Kametani and Felicity Lazo. Guests were greeted and thanked.

Refreshments: Our refreshment for the evening is pie donated by Jeannie Lingerfelt, Sandy Berthelot, Jan Ferguson, Lucky Virgin and Bonnie Ward. Erika Erskine brought a beautiful plate of valentine foil wrapped chocolates and a valentine centerpiece. Thank you everyone.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: Jan Ferguson said she had an Abused Children canister set up front for anyone who would like to donate.

Annual Luncheon Meeting: None.



Ore-Cutts

Breakfast: Breakfast for February will be held on the 26th at the Sunrise Grill at Sunset Ridge Golf Center, 1424 W. Fairway Drive, Santa Maria at 9:00 a.m.

Budget & Audit: Wes Lingerfelt called for an audit of the books and asked that Don Nasholm do the audit. As Don was a little under the weather and was not in attendance, Sylvia said she would relay the request.

Bulletin: The Bulletin is out and everyone received their copy.

CFMS: None.

Door Prize: There are some great prizes for this evening including everything from a Rock and Mineral pocket guide to mineral specimens to beads to rock slabs.

Education: None.

Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt said that contracts have gone out to dealers and he has received a few back already. He also said he should have fliers ready by the next meeting. He was sad to report that he had just been informed that long time dealer, Helen Dahnke, had recently passed away. Helen and her husband, John, were long time gem and mineral dealers featuring up-scale jewelry and lapidary products, showing at shows throughout the Western United States. Wes said if you made a purchase from their stock you always knew it would be worth what you paid for it. They will be missed very much on the show circuit.

Historian: None.

Field Trip: The February field trip will be held February 19th and will be to Willow Creek to look for jade. Members will meet at the Bob Jones Trailhead at 8:00 a.m.

Highway Clean up: Our next highway clean-up will be March 12th at 8:00 a.m. Members will meet on the south east corner of Highways 101 and 166.

Library: Geary Sheffer said that some of the plastic bins he keeps books in had been badly damaged and would have to be replaced.

Locker Clean up: None.

Membership: Elaine Von Achen noted that annual dues are due by March 1, 2011 and that she will be collecting dues and giving out membership cards this evening for anyone who has not paid yet.

Political Action Committee: None.

Property: None.

Scholarships: Wayne Mills requested a check from the treasurer in the amount of \$750.00 to be sent to Allan Hancock College.

Sunshine: Mike Henson has had some respiratory problems and is still under the weather.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gloria Dana asked if any member would like to be an "Assistant Trail Master" as Bob Bullock could use the help when he is unable to attend a field trip.

February's program will be given by Don Dana on "Faceting".

February's display will be anything that co-ordinates with the program.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Bench Tips

I'm fortunate to live in a big city that has frequent jewelry shows where I can buy supplies. But there are certain risks in buying at one of these events or from some of the online venues. Recently, a friend bought a package of 12 mm Sterling jump rings that became copper plated in the pickle. There was no sign of any steel contamination, so I tested them with a magnet to discover they were just plated steel.

I ran into a similar misrepresentation a couple years ago. I bought some "genuine" turquoise beads that I needed for 10mm cabs only to find they were a white magnesite that had been dyed.

Best solution is to carry a couple simple tools with you when you go to buy stones or findings. I usually carry a ten-power loupe and a small vernier caliper to measure things. From now on, I'll also be carrying a small, strong magnet with me to test the findings.

Dealers are not necessarily the problem. Many have no idea their metals are plated. They were duped by their supplier. Regardless of who's to blame, I think it's worth reporting any problems you find to both the dealer and to the show promoter.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

March 2011 Calendar

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday March 1, 2011 7:00 to 8:30 pm | OMS Board Meeting-at Jan's house at 325 Blue Sky Dr In Arroyo Grande. All members are welcome at this business meeting.  |
| Tuesday March 8, 2011 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. |  OMS General Meeting- Luis Oasis Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program- Intarsia• Display- Intarsias• Refreshments-Pie |
| Saturday March 12, 2011 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. | Roadside Clean up, meet at junction of Hwys 101 and 166. After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. |

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| Saturday March 19, 2011 8:00 am to 5:00 pm | Field Trip to Coleson Canyon , off of Tepesquet Rd. Down into the camping area, good vehicles and USFS day pass required. Bring food water, bedding, survival gear, etc. Round up at The VA parking lot a Suey and East Main St. SM. All vehicles must be up to snuff that go and this isn't for the weak of heart neither. Folks should bring several days worth of food just in case |
| Saturday March 26, 2011 9:00 to 10:00 am | OMS Monthly Breakfast- Home town Buffet 1431 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria. For information call Sylvia Nasholm at 481-0923 |
| April 2011 Calendar | |
| Tuesday April 5, 2011 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | OMS Board Meeting at the home of the Ferguson's. All members are welcome at this business meeting. For directions call Jan Ferguson at 474-9977. |
| Tuesday April 12, 2011 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. | OMS General Meeting Luis Oasis Senior Center in Old Orcutt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- TBD • Display-TBD • Refreshments-Cakes |
| Saturday April 16, 2011 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. | Field Trip - Avila Beach meet at the Bob Jones Trailhead at 8:00 a.m.. Enjoy a warm spring day on the beach collecting DeeDeeite. Bring lunch, water and a good eye for the local odd stuff. Easy access to an excellent collecting area. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details. |
| Saturday April 23, 2011 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. | OMS Monthly Breakfast at <i>The Girls Restaurant</i> 1237 E. Grand Ave. Arroyo Grande. |



CFMS SHOWS 2011

March 5-6 2011, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
 Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
 301 Baldwin Ave.
 Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30
 Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
 Email: vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
 Website: www.Moroks.com

March 5-6 2011, Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds
 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4

Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043 /
lilliananderson@juno.com
 Email: vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
 Website: vgms.org

March 12-13 2011, Salinas, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
 Veteran's Hall Spreckels, CA
 5th & Llano Streets
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 daily
 Karen Jones (831) 678-0337 /
KenKAre0337@att.net



March 19-20 2011, Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society
 Kern County Shrine Club
 700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)
 Hours: 9-5 daily
 Lewis Helfrich Home (661) 323-2663
 Cell: (661) 378-4450
 Email: lewsrocks@bak.it.com

March 26-27 2011, Angels Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
 Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA)
 Hwy 49 in Angels Camp
 Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 9-4
 Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579
 Email: Tak2me@msn.com

March 26-27 - ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
 Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds
 800 All American City Blvd.
 Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
 Glori Marie (530) 367-2262
 Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
 Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 26-27 - TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
 Ken Miller Recreational Center
 3341 Torrance Blvd.
 Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
 Craig & Kathy Polliard (310) 533-4931
 Email: kipolliard@yahoo.com

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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.

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 (805) 929-1488

Ore-Cutts

2010-OMS Officers

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Pres. | Gloria Dana | (805) 929-6429 |
| Pres. Elect | Don Dana | (805) 929-6429 |
| Secretary | Elaine Von Achen | (805) 929-1488 |
| Treasurer | Wes Lingerfelt | (805) 929-3788 |
| Immed. Past Pres. | Sylvia Nasholm | (805) 481-0923 |
| Federation. Rep. | Wes Lingerfelt | (805) 929-3788 |

2010-OMS Board Members

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Jeannie Lingerfelt | (805) 929-3788 |
| Jan Ferguson | (805) 474-9977 |
| Sandy Berthelot | (805) 349-3977 |
| Debbie Hood | (805) 481-6860 |
| Mike Henson | (805) 934-1308 |



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

OMS Editor

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

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

