



## November 2022

**November 7** - Payments and meal choices are due for the Annual Banquet. However, you can pay earlier. Contact Wayne or Sally ASAP!

**November 7** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's garden.

**November 8 - No General Meeting due to voting! New day is November 22nd!**

**November 12** at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-up at the Southwest Corner of Highway 101 and 166.

**November 22** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center.

## December 2022

**December 5** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's garden.

**December 10** - OMS Annual Meeting at the Madonna Inn in the Round Room from noon to 3:00 pm.

## The Prez Box - November 2022



Amazingly, we are headed into our last regular month of 2022. We have put together a group of volunteers to satisfactorily fill our Board positions in 2023 so the club will continue next year. We still would like to have a few more Board members due to the fact that a few people are filling multiple roles. We will be asking if there is anyone else that would like to be on

the Board. We have 2 positions open, we have 1 Board position open and Tara would love someone to take over as Secretary! If you are interested in either position, please speak up! You need to be a club member for at least 1 year to be on the Board and at least 2 years for the Secretary position.

This month is our last Highway clean up for 2022 on November 12th. Hopefully we'll have a great turn out to help us celebrate keeping the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 mile stretch of Rt166 E. clean and beautified for another year! We often hear "Thank you" shouted from passing drivers and bicyclists, it's nice to hear our efforts are appreciated. Hope to see you there and for goodies and conversation afterwards.

At our October General Meeting, we announced our 5 new members who have completed their requirements. Joey Nichols has already consented to be our field trips coordinator. She will be working with Wayne on the ins and outs of the job. Also welcomed were Joe Goetz, who has helped with Highway clean up, Sara Farrell, and Cary and Kathy Holst. We welcome you all, glad to have you!

## Birthdays

Moniah Marquez  
November 1st

Joe Azevedo  
November 8th

John Von Achen  
November 14th

Wayne Mills  
November 21st

Dee Dee Magri  
November 21st

Brenna Ferguson  
November 27th

## Anniversaries

Robyn Burgess  
November 6th

Bill and Jeanne Watkins  
November 9th

Marshall and Glenda Reeves  
November 18th

Margaret Hanson  
November 19th

## Who is Bringing Snacks?

Truman Burgess, the Nasholms, and the Azevedos are bringing cookies.

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We are preparing for our Annual Awards Banquet on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Madonna Inn's Round room from Noon to 3:00pm. At the October General Meeting, 19 people signed up and paid for their meals. Anyone who is planning to attend will need to sign up and pay at the November General Meeting. The entrée choices are Tom Turkey or Petite Salmon. In addition to the main course there is a garden salad as an appetizer, whipped potatoes, chef vegetables, buttered rolls, and coffee or tea. Dessert is Black Forest Cake. After dinner, we have a gift exchange, participation is optional. If you wish to join in, bring a wrapped rock related gift item valued at approximately \$10. Hope you will attend and join in the festivities! If you are unable to attend the November meeting, let one of the Board officers know of your plans to attend on or before the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Again, I'd like to thank Bryan Pearson on his excellent presentation of life and lapidary skills in the prehistoric days at our October meeting. If anyone else has something they would like to share please let me know and we'll schedule you for next year.

This month Wes Lingerfelt is going to present a program on our trip to Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History field trip in August. The Rare Earth exhibit was spectacular and well worth revisiting! In honor of that, if you have any minerals in their matrix (original earth presentation), they would fit right in. You can also bring anything you would like to show off.

Hope you and your families have a happy, safe and filling Thanksgiving,  
Sally G.

## November Birthstone - Topaz

Some believe the word "topaz" comes from the Sanskrit word tapas, which means "fire." Others trace it back to the Greek word topazos. The ancient Greeks believed that topaz gave them strength. From the 1300s to the 1600s, Europeans thought it could thwart magic spells and dispel anger. For centuries, many people in India have believed that topaz worn above the heart assures long life, beauty and intelligence.

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones>

## Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting - October 3, 2022

**Call to Order:** 7:01 pm by President, Sally Griffith

**Members Present:** Sally Griffith, Tara Machin, Wayne Mills, Jeanne Brown, Renea Sutcliffe, Jan Ferguson, Betty Campbell. Guest: Wes Lingerfelt

**Previous Minutes:** No corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanne informed the board that the bank statement has not been sent from the bank so the Show finances are still not finalized. Also the school has still not provided an invoice yet. Jeannie has called the school and is waiting a follow up.

**Correspondence:** AFMS monthly newsletter, Santa Lucia Rockhounds newsletter, and a very outdated Gem Fair Postcard for a Show from August 12th.

### Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** Wes Lingerfelt's name was misspelled as well as Jeanne Brown in the board meeting notes from September 5th
2. **CFMS-** No report
3. **Membership-** Wayne and Sally discussed whether or not to continue to delay new membership requests due to the fact that they would not be eligible for the board until election time at the end of 2024. Wayne explained that he could make the date that the new members join be retro-active to date that they applied for membership. Wayne will welcome new members this month and they will start their membership and that membership will be good until the end of 2024. We won't charge them for 3 months in 2022. We will be able to welcome all the new members at the annual meeting on December 10th.

4. **Field Trip-** Sally won't be scheduling anymore field trips this year unless we find another trip like our Museum trip that we went on in August. Next year Joey Nichols, one our members, will be taking over the field trip scheduling! Wayne is willing to help Joey with knowledge of out local areas?
5. **Adopt-a-Highway-** Our last highway clean up for 2022 will be on November 12th. Wayne wrote an article about what the adopt a highway is, but there was not enough room in the newsletter. We will try to at least put the link to the article on our website if we cannot find room in the November newsletter.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** Jeanne informed the board that food selections needed to be picked today. The board looked at preliminary menus from the Madonna Inn and voted. We will be having a garden salad for the appetizer, a choice of either Tom Turkey or Salmon for the entree, whipped potatoes as our additional side (chef's choice of vegetables is our other side), and Black Forest cake for the dessert. Sally will call to see if we can get a second dessert and vegetarian plates as needed. The running vote for the second dessert will be Pecan pie. Members will pay \$12 for the meal and non-members will pay \$24. The club will pick up the tip. Members will pick their entrees at the October general meeting and payments must be received by the November general meeting.

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7. **Education-** Wayne gave a talk at the Dana Adobe on October 2nd about the rocks and minerals of the central coast. Wayne was also super busy as the Rock Doc at the San Luis Obispo Rock Show.
8. **Library-** No report
9. **Sunshine-** Margret will be out of town for the next 6-8 weeks. If anyone is in need of Sunshine, please let Sally know.
10. **Scholarship-** Our annual scholarship depends on our show revenue. It will be at least \$1500 but it might be higher than that once the show numbers are officially closed.

#### **Show:**

- We are not ready to plan the 2023 show yet. We want to wait on elections to decide if the show will be able to go on next year.

#### **Old Business:**

- The election process is underway. We will bring up the elections in the October and November general meetings to make sure that any volunteers can have the opportunity to run as board members. We will vote in November. We need a president elect and we have 1 board position that need to be filled.
- Wayne is still working on a guide to rock hunting in our area. Wayne will work with Joey on the field trips and that will in turn help get our guide in order. Sally has a library manuscript from long ago with all the

collecting areas throughout CA and beyond. That needs to be updated and corrected. We also need to update the field trip regulations and add difficulty ratings.

#### **New Business:**

- Starting Jan. Board Meeting we will be working on the club Bylaws. Sally would like everyone to get their own copy of the bylaws. She will print them out or anyone can copy them from the website.
- The board voted on our OMS member of the year. The recipient will get the award at the Annual meeting in December.
- The Golden Bear award was discussed for outstanding members of our club.
- Rockhound of the Year for CFMS / AFMS will need to be nominated.
- There are extra shirts floating around. They are pre-loved, but Renea will bring them to the general meeting to see if anyone wants them. We will sell them for \$3.
- Wayne is ordering pins and bars for the Board members and the officers who served in 2022.

**Program:** Bryan Pearson is taking us back, way back, to the era of using hand tools and the techniques used to create lapidary art forms before motorized machinery.

**Display:** Relics, artifacts, as well as fossils

Adjourned at 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted by Tara Machin, OMS Secretary



Photo from: <https://www.gemstonebuzz.com/gemstone/topaz/>

## All About the Adopt-A-Highway Program

By Wayne W. Mills, OMS Highway Coordinator

Orcutt Mineral Society has participated in California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans's) Adopt-A-Highway Program since 1993. (I joined the Society in 1994). A long-time member of our Society, Bick Strader, managed the program from 1993 to 1997 when Marshall Reeves took over. Marshall had the job until he, his wife Glenda, and their two children moved to Oregon in 2008. At that time, I took the job over.

During his tenure as AAH Chair, Marshall devised a clever strategy for carrying two separate trash bags at the same time (one for trash, and one for cans and (plastic) bottles which we recycle). His strategy consisted of a 23" section of 3/4" PVC pipe, and 2 small hand clamps with a 1.25" opening capacity. I dubbed this device "The Marshall Plan", and more recently, "Pick-up Stix". To use, simply put the inside edges of two trash bags together and place the pipe inside the edges, then make a couple of rolls until you can place the clamps near either end of the assembly. Now you are ready to pick up trash (after you

put the rest of your gear on). You need: sturdy shoes and warm enough clothing, and a hard hat, gloves, vest and picker (supplied by OMS). Then you need to know what section you are cleaning.

OMS has been assigned the first two miles of Route 166 East of Highway 101. We have divided our section (which is marked beginning and end with signs bearing our society name) into 4 main sections. These are: Section one: the parking area at the southeast corner of Routes 101/166, Section two: both sides of the highway from Thompson Avenue east to the first farm driveway and back to the parking lot. Remember to walk facing traffic. The third section goes from the second farm driveway on the north side of the highway back to the end of section two and back on the north side of the highway. Section four goes from the driveway marking the end of Section 2 to the highway sign marking the end of our clean-up area about 2 miles east of Highway 101.

We begin our clean up at 8:00 AM on the Second Saturday of odd numbered months. (So six clean-ups per year usually.) The clean-up takes about 1.5-2 hours depending on how "dirty" the highway is. In our 29 years of highway clean-ups we have found some interesting things. Note the article "Cleaning-up" in the October, 2022 Ore-Cutts. After our work is done, we often meet at Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria for conversation, coffee and treats. Our Wes Lingerfelt, a member of the National Lapidary Hall of Fame, has been doing the clean-ups longer than anyone who currently participates in them. Wes donates an "incentive prize" to each of our after clean-up meetings, and the names of all participants in that day's clean-up (present or not) are put in a hat. Our waitress Shelly usually draws the winner who is often Mr. Lingerfelt!

In April of 2022, we received a letter from Caltrans announcing a "Stipend Program" which we decided to participate in. We sent in articles about our clean-up, and pictures of the bags we collected, and some of the things that we found. After our May and July Clean-ups, we received a check from the State of California for \$500! A pretty nice reward for our clean-up efforts.



## Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting - October 11, 2022

**Call to Order:** 7:10 pm by President, Sally Griffith

**Invocation:** Wayne Mills

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Wayne Mills

**Members Present:** 20 Members / 5 Guests

**Previous Minutes:** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

**Treasurer Report:** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

**Correspondence:** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

### Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** No corrections
2. **CFMS-** No report
3. **Membership-** We welcomed new members and Wayne owes one member \$6 in change for their membership fees. There are more guests who have been to at least 3 meetings and they are ready to be approved soon.
4. **Field Trip-** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022
5. **Adopt-a-Highway-** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** We passed around sign up sheets for the Banquet. Sally will be collecting the fees for the dinner. All payments must be received by the November General Meeting. The secretary will send out an email to figure out who is coming and what dinner they pick. We discussed the gift exchange. The gift should be rock related and should be at least \$10. Also remember

to bring canned goods for the Salvation Army. The lunch will be from Noon to 3 pm at the Madonna Inn. See you there!

7. **Education-** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

8. **Library-** No report

9. **Sunshine-** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022. Silva Nashholm and Bill Brown are both not doing well. A card was sent around for Silva and we will send a card for Bill soon.

10. **Scholarship-** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

**Show:** No report

**Old Business:** See Board Meeting Notes from October 3, 2022

### New Business:

The San Luis Obispo show in November has been cancelled due to lack of participation. Sally announced the elections. We need to find one board member and Jeanne Brown may volunteer as our President Elect, but it may not work out.

We showed the used t-shirts for sale. There were also new t-shirts and new hats for sale.

**Program:** Bryan Pearson is taking us back, way back, to the era of using hand tools and the techniques used to create lapidary art forms before motorized machinery.

**Display:** Relics, artifacts, as well as fossils

Adjourned at 8:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by Tara Machin, OMS Secretary



## Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

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**November 5-6, 2022** - Atascadero, CA  
Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Website: [www.slrockhounds.org](http://www.slrockhounds.org)

**CANCELLED!**

**November 6, 2022** - Mason, NV  
Mason Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Contact: srheid@usa.net

**November 6, 2022** - Lake Elsinore, CA  
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: Berylman50@aol.com

**November 19-20, 2022** - Santa Cruz, CA  
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society  
Contact: (831) 459-0572,  
scruzmgs@gmail.com  
Website: <https://www.scrockngem.org>

**December** - No listings

More information can be found on the CFMS website at [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

## CFMS / AFMS News - November 2022

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Notes by Wayne Mills

**CFMS Website** - [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

There was no CFMS newsletter posted at the printing of this newsletter. Please go to their website for the most updated information.

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**AFMS Website**- [amfed.org](http://amfed.org)

There was no AFMS newsletter posted at the printing of this newsletter. Please go to their website for the most updated information.

## Interesting Internet

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**Diamond Dan has a Coloring Book for our Mini Miners. To download the issue for your own use, please go to this link on DropBox:**

[Click Here](#)

**Meet the Meteorite Hunters Who Rush In When Space Rocks Crash to Earth.**

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/meteorite-hunters>

## The Bolivian Death Switch

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A Summation of an article written by Rock H. Currier

By Tara Machin

A few months ago, Jan Ferguson passed on an article written by Rock H. Currier in 1994. I was hoping to attach a link to a website featuring the article, but I didn't find any. In 1994 the internet was not as accessible as it is now and it seems that the photo copy of a printed rockhound newsletter is the only remnants of this fascinating article. I will do my best to sum up the 6 page article for you here, but please reach out for a copy if you would like the whole article to read.

Rock Currier and his friend, Gary Moss, decided to travel to Bolivia together in 1993. They made arrangements to travel to Cochabamba, a city 8000 feet above sea level. Contrary to popular belief, Cochabamba has the largest statue of Christ in the world. Their statue is 1 meter taller than the statue in Rio de Janeiro. In Cochabamba the pair made arrangements to visit some of the old mines in the area.

In 1993 the economic status of Bolivia was very poor. Many of the old mines were abandoned due to equipment failures and no money to fix them. Some of the locals were moving out of the area to find better work, and some turned to drug dealing. It was one of these drug dealers that may have provided the 4 wheel drive vehicle that Rock and Gary needed to rent while they were in Bolivia.

They headed off to Oruro which was a mining town which had mostly closed up. Nothing to buy or collect there. Onward to parts unknown. Along with no internet in 1993, there was also no navigation on a cell phone (if you could even afford to own one). The guys took off with hand drawn maps that were full of errors, no idea where the next gas station would be, and drove down sketchy dirt roads full of sand. Eventually they made it to Salar de Uyuni which is the largest salt flat in the world and easily seen in the distance.

The town of Uyuni was a tiny town in 1993 and may still be today. The pair checked into a hotel with the desire of getting into a hot shower to wash the off the dust from the road. What they found was a communal bathroom with a very suspicious water heating device. The water pipe was directly wired with what appeared to be bare electrical wires carrying 220 volts that was supposed to instantly boil the water coming out of the shower head. There was only a tiny plastic knob to turn on the electricity. There was plenty of opportunities to accidentally touch the live circuit. Standing in water with a little soap on the body was a perfect conductor for the electric current.

The suspect showers in Bolivia did little to detour Rock and Gary and they spent quite an adventurous trip going from town to town finding and buying specimens from the local miners. They even ended up on TV showing the locals how to wrap specimens in paper to protect them. In the end, the two collected many specimens that they could sell back in the states just in time for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. They made the return trip back to the starting point of Cochabamba and both lived to tell the tale of their encounter with the Bolivian Death Switch.

Although this tale is not available online, there are other stories by Rock H. Currier. Please go to <https://www.rockcurrier.com/> for more information on this amazing character.

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Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Tara Machin Jeannine Todd	(805) 863-5992
Treasurer	Jeanne L. Watkins	(805) 481-1811
<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members</b>		
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>CFMS Federation Director</b>		
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
<b>OMS Membership</b>		
Membership	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Membership is \$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.		
<b>OMS Online Contacts</b>		
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*ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

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

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have 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.

