

O X N A R D C L U B

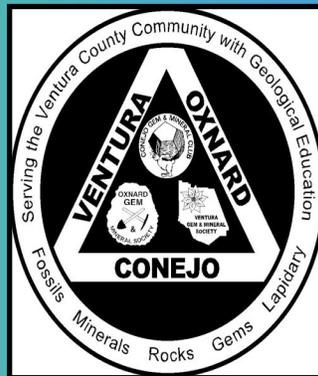
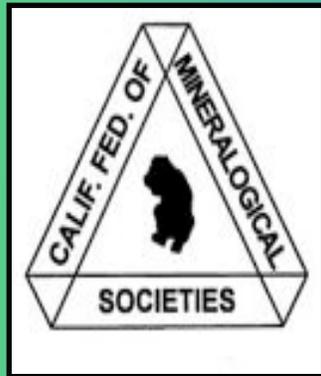
T H E

# ROCK BAG

OCTOBER 2013 VOLUME 51 ISSUE 10

OXNARD GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

OXNARD CALIFORNIA



## OXNARD GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization formed to increase our knowledge in geology, mineralogy and other such related fields in the earth sciences. We classify, cut, grind and polish rocks and minerals for our personal collections and to display at club shows. We learn from each other through club speakers, programs and monthly field trips. We co operate with other clubs to encourage others to participate in our activity.

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the State of California Federation of Mineralogical Society and the National Federation of Mineralogical Society.



**Because OGMS is affiliated with the AFMS, our members observe the following AFMS principles:**



- \* I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.**
- \* I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.**
- \* I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.**
- \* I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.**
- \* I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.**
- \* I will leave all gates as found.**
- \* I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.**
- \* I will discard no burning material; matches, cigarettes, etc.**
- \* I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.**
- \* I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.**
- \* I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.**
- \* I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.**
- \* I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.**
- \* I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.**
- \* I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.**
- \* I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.**
- \* I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.**



# MINUTES OF THE SEPT 4, 2013 OGMS GENERAL MEETING

**Call to order:** 7:30 pm. Adrian Ruiz, presiding. Bob Driskell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Hospitality:** Sixteen members signed in, 3 guests. Jo Martinez has agreed to help with Hospitality.

**Minutes:** Motion by Lee Leighton to accept August General Meeting minutes as published in Rock Bag. Motion seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Not present. Tabled to next meeting.

**Correspondence:** Show and field trip info on table.

**Membership:** We have 43 members.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Program: Tonight:** Mary-Pat and Dick Weber, Colorful Agates of Patagonia. October: Steve Mulqueen, Trona minerals, Searles Lake. November: Show Meeting. December: Holiday Potluck.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Show:** Need sign-ups for volunteers. Show meeting next Wednesday, 7 pm. Agatized Coral from Florida will be the exhibitor gift for the November show.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Field Trips:** September field trip led by Larry Knapton, to Bishop, CA for garnets and across border to NV for ammonites.

**Old Business:** Storage POD for classes, rent is due again. City needs club to sign lease agreement for shop classes. Volunteers include Carolyn Howe, Jean pSmith, and Laura Driskell. Larry and Donna Knapton to serve as advisors, being the senior members of the club. Adrian Ruiz motions that the club accepts this group to negotiate with the City. Motion seconded, passed.

**New Business:** None.

**Federation News:** None.

**Education:** Knaptons worked at the VC Fair introducing kids to "touch rocks".

**Classes:** Classes may still be starting in October. Once lease is signed, need to unload POD.

**Library:** New book on Jade has been received. Review of book/video on diamonds from Arkansas will be forthcoming.

**Refreshments** for October: Kay Hara, Donna Knapton.

**Ways and Means:** Jo Martinez agreed to help with this committee. Raffle tickets sold and drawn during refreshments.

**Scholarships:** Kay Hara announced that candidates are being screened, and Jo Martinez has agreed to sit on the committee.

**Announcements:** Board meeting next Wednesday, including Show meeting. Mary Meeker shared information on two books on Fossils that she got from the LA County library.

Refreshment break and Ways and Means raffle.

**Program: Colorful Condor Agates of Patagonia.** Mary-Pat and Dick Weber presented a slide show with beautiful color pictures of agates present in South America. Interesting and informative. Fact: There are five different kinds of "skin" or "rind" on agates.



**Adjournment:** Nothing further to report, Adrian Ruiz adjourned meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Laura Driskell, Recording Secretary**  
**September 19, 2013**

# MINUTES OF THE SEPT 11, 2013 OGMS BOARD & SHOW MEETING

## SHOW MEETING:

**Call to order:** 7:03pm, Brett Johnson, presiding.

Attendees: Brett Johnson, Adrian Ruiz, Miriam Tetreault, Stephanie Hagiwara, Kay Hara, Bob Driskell, Donna Knapton, Larry Knapton, Brian Miller, Laura Driskell.

1. Dates for the 2014 OGMS yearly schedule is printed and has been handed in to OPAC. Pebble Pup meetings will be added to schedule upon Louisa's return.
2. Brett will contact OPAC regarding the marquee.
3. Discussion regarding signage to encourage more attendees. Possible locations for signs include over by Costco and Fry's, as well as close by the shopping centers.
4. Refreshment Chair, Laura Driskell. Food for Friday night will be lasagna or spaghetti, salads and bread rolls. Lunches for the weekend to be lighter, healthier, to include soup or chili and tuna.
5. Brett asked whether Steve and Laura Grayson have been approached to participate in the show. Nobody knows.
6. Floor-walkers do "security" by roaming around the show area, directing people to the restrooms, etc. Brett asked Bob Driskell to take lead on the security detail for the weekend. He can also take pictures while walking around.
7. Possibility of getting lapel pins of different minerals for case gifts and trading.
8. Adjourned, 7:45 pm.

## BOARD MEETING:

**Call to Order:** 7:46 pm, Adrian Ruiz, presiding.

Attendees: Adrian Ruiz, Brett Johnson, Kay Hara, Bob Driskell, Miriam Tetreault, Brian Miller, Donna Knapton, Larry Knapton, Stephanie Hagiwara, Laura Driskell.

**Minutes:** Motion by Kay Hara to approve July Board Meeting minutes as published in the Rock Bag. Motion seconded, minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Discussion of bills to be paid, deposits. Motion to pay bills, and accept Treasurer's Report, by Kay Hara. Motion seconded and approved.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Nothing in mail. Stephanie requested a card for the Webers, as Dick fell ill after their visit here. Thank-you cards are a good idea to send to our presenters.

**Membership:** No new members. We have about 43 members. Barbara Black wants to know if she is a member, she's not on the roster.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Classes at Durley Park:

1. City wishes to handle registration in order to maintain control of funds.
2. Our insurance agent says we can add the City to our policy as an additional insured.
3. The equipment at Durley Park can be covered by "content" insurance, which is something that the Board agrees is a good idea. This would start the minute that the equipment is unloaded from the POD. Brett Johnson made a motion to start equipment insurance right away. The motion was seconded, however, the motion is tabled until Jean pSmith finds out if equipment insurance will cost more or less when disconnected from liability insurance.
4. A "member" night where only members attend the classes, would possibly be covered by CFMS insurance, must be checked.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs:** October 2nd, Steve Mulqueen, on evaporative minerals. November 6th, Show meeting. December 4th, Holiday Potluck and Entertainment.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Show:** Show meeting just held.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Field Trips:** September 14 & 15, Larry Knapton leads a trip to Bishop for garnets, and a location in Luning, NV for ammonites. October 12 & 13, John Cook sponsors trip to Trona. November 28 - 31, Wiley's Well.

**Federation:** Full attendance at Camp Paradise.

**Classes:** Committee (Carolyn Howe, Jean pSmith, Laura Driskell, and Donna Knapton) has been selected to work with the City to review the contract and insurance for Durley Park.

**Scholarship:** Jo Martinez has joined the scholarship committee. The CSUCI scholarship meeting will be September 20<sup>th</sup>, where Kay will present scholarship. Oxnard College did not give a good candidate for consideration. Need to get councilors to interest students in the scholarship process.

**Education:** Volunteered at the VC Fair with the touch rocks.

**Editor:** Articles should be sent to Brian.

**Library:** Kay will review a book for next month.

**Displays & Exhibits:** Nothing to discuss.

**Adjournment:** Next Board Meeting, October 9, 2013. Will include a Show Meeting at 7 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Driskell, Recording Secretary  
September 11, 2013*

“Evaporite Minerals Of Searles Lake”

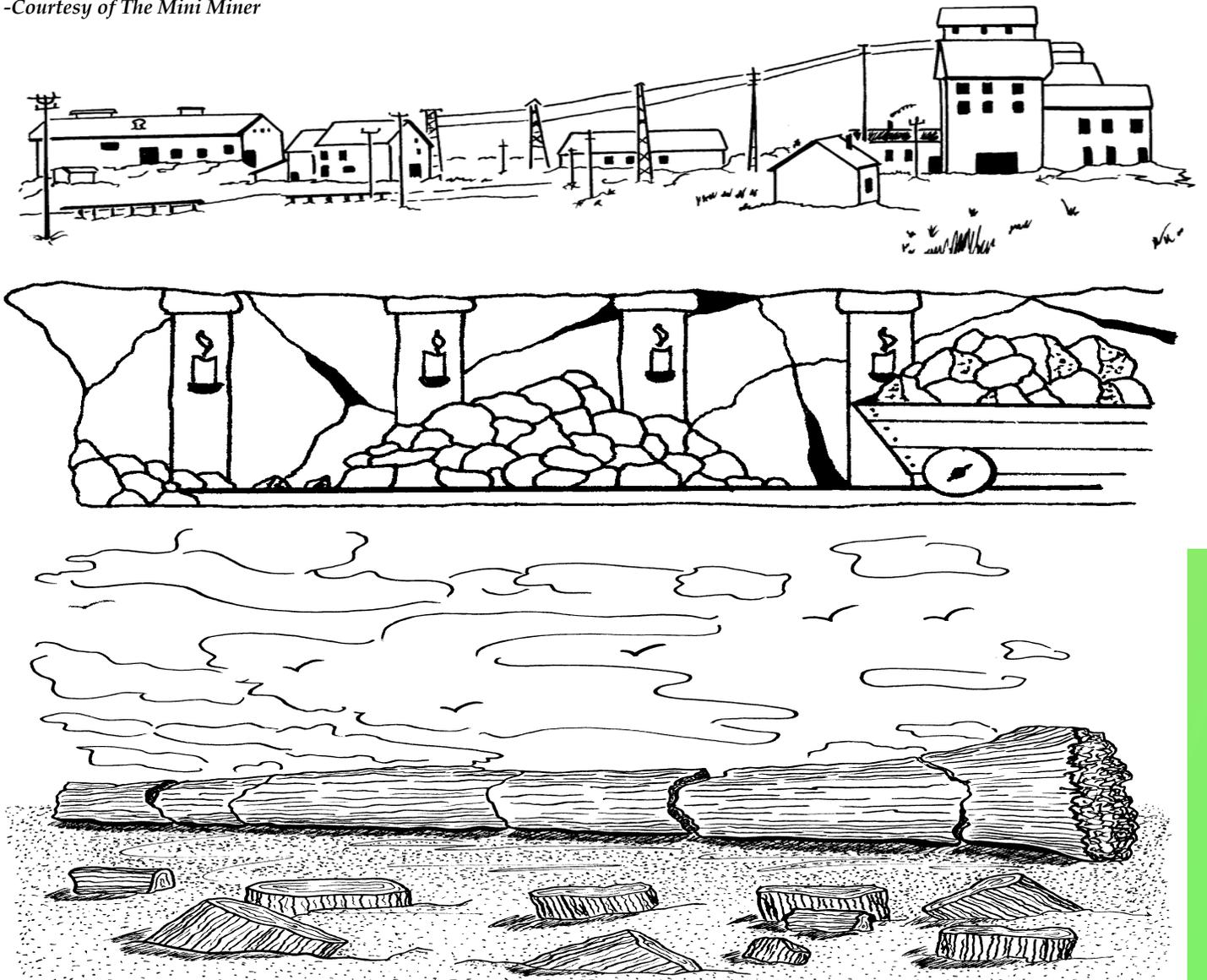
*Presented by Stephen P. Mulqueen*

Steve worked as a Geologist for Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp., former operator of the Trona facilities from 1979 to 1982.



PEBBLE PUPS

*-Courtesy of The Mini Miner*



## Feathery Four-Winged Dinosaur Fossil Found In China Bridges Transition To Birds

Sept 29, 2009 - A fossil of a bird-like dinosaur with four wings has been discovered in northeastern China. The specimen bridges a critical gap in the transition from dinosaurs to birds, and reveals new insights into the origin evolution of feathers. The transition from dinosaurs to birds is poorly understood because of the lack of well-preserved fossils, and many scientists argue that bird-like dinosaurs appear too late in the fossil record to be the true ancestors of birds.

In the journal *Nature*, Xing Xu and colleagues describe an exceptionally well-preserved fossil of *Anchiornis huxleyi* from the province of Liaoning, China. Long feathers cover the arms and tail, but also the feet, suggesting that a four-winged stage may have existed in the transition to birds. *Anchiornis huxleyi* was previously thought to be a primitive bird, but closer inspection reveals that it should be assigned to the *Troodontidae* — a group of dinosaurs closely related to birds.

The authors date the fossil to the earliest Late Jurassic, meaning that it is the oldest bird-like dinosaur reported so far, and older than *Archaeopteryx*, the earliest known bird. They conclude that the presence of such a species at this time in the fossil record effectively disputes the argument that bird-like dinosaurs appeared too late to be the ancestors of birds.



Top: Fossil of *Anchiornis huxleyi* from the province of Liaoning, China. Bottom: Artist's rendering. (Credit: Xing Xu)

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Nature. "Feathery Four-winged Dinosaur Fossil Found In China Bridges Transition To Birds." ScienceDaily, 29 Sep. 2009. Web. 20 Sep. 2013.

## What Direction Does Earth's Center Spin? New Insights Solve 300-Year-Old Problem

Sept 16, 2013 - *Scientists at the University of Leeds have solved a 300-year-old riddle about which direction the center of Earth spins.*

Earth's inner core, made up of solid iron, 'super-rotates' in an eastward direction -- meaning it spins faster than the rest of the planet -- while the outer core, comprising mainly molten iron, spins westwards at a slower pace. Although Edmund Halley -- who also discovered the famous comet -- showed the westward-drifting motion of Earth's geomagnetic field in 1692, it is the first time that scientists have been able to link the way the inner core spins to the behavior of the outer core. The planet behaves in this way because it is responding to Earth's geomagnetic field. The findings, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, help scientists to interpret the dynamics of the core of Earth, the source of our planet's magnetic field. In the last few decades, seismometers measuring earthquakes traveling through Earth's core have identified an eastwards, or super-rotation of the solid inner core, relative to Earth's surface. "The link is simply explained in terms of equal and opposite action," explains Dr Philip Livermore, of the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds. "The magnetic field pushes eastwards on the inner core, causing it to spin faster than the Earth, but it also pushes in the opposite direction in the liquid outer core, which creates a westward motion." The solid iron inner core is about the size of the Moon. It is surrounded by the liquid outer core, an iron alloy, whose convection-driven movement generates the geomagnetic field. The fact that Earth's internal magnetic field changes slowly, over a timescale of decades, means that the electromagnetic force responsible for pushing the inner and outer cores will itself change over time. This may explain fluctuations in the predominantly eastwards rotation of the inner core, a phenomenon reported for the last 50 years by Tkalčić et al. in a recent study published in *Nature Geoscience*. Other previous research based on archeological artifacts and rocks, with ages of hundreds to thousands of years, suggests that the drift direction has not always been westwards: some periods of eastwards motion may have occurred in the last 3,000 years. Viewed within the conclusions of the new model, this suggests that the inner core may have undergone a westwards rotation in such periods. The authors used a model of Earth's core which was run on the giant super-computer Monte Rosa, part of the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre in Lugano, Switzerland. Using a new method, they were able to simulate Earth's core with an accuracy about 100 times better than other models. The study was a collaboration between the University of Leeds and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.



*Scientists have solved a 300-year-old riddle about which direction the center of Earth spins. Earth's inner core, made up of solid iron, 'super-rotates' in an eastward direction -- meaning it spins faster than the rest of the planet -- while the outer core, comprising mainly molten iron, spins westwards at a slower pace. (Credit: © KristijanZontar / Fotolia)*

University of Leeds. "What direction does Earth's center spin? New insights solve 300-year-old problem." ScienceDaily, 16 Sep. 2013. Web. 20 Sep. 2013.

## OCTOBER 2013 OGMS SHOW REPORT

Have you been giving some thoughts on what you will be exhibiting at our Show in less than seven weeks? We are still riding high on our success at the Federation Show in May/June and Cheri George, of the CFMS Rules Committee, outlined it best in her article in this month's CFMS newsletter (see the copy below). We have a greater responsibility to the general public, our neighboring club members, and ourselves to display our hobby. I hope everyone will give their hearts and minds to helping raise our exhibit number to record-breaking heights. There was a time, when the exhibits at our annual Show reached 100 cases. Wow!!! Can you imagine?! That number comes from everyone participating and displaying their wonderful creations and cherished collections. The public, general and club members alike, do not care if there is a scratch a polished stone, a fossil broken in a few pieces, or that slightly misshapen silver ring. They are attending our Show to see why we love our hobby. Here is our opportunity to share the love of Gems, Fossils, Minerals, and all Rocks in general. By putting together an Exhibit of your favorite treasures, you can show off the joy and fulfillment we get from our Hobby to everyone. Please, join your fellow Society members and show us your beautiful collections, interesting treasures, and amazing creations. There is an Exhibitor's application in this RockBag. Fill it out soon, ***the deadline for entry is Oct. 31st.***

Raffle tickets are available for sale from Kay Hara. Tickets will be sold at: one (1) for \$1.00, six (6) for \$5.00, twelve (12) for \$10.00, or Twenty-Five (25) for \$20.00. We will need nice and desirable prizes for the Raffle. Please contact Kay Hara to acceptable your donations for the Show.

Finally, there will be a Show Meeting at the next board meeting, Wed. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. I will need all the Show Chairpersons to attend the board meeting to report on your status and progress in your area of expertise. Thank you for all your help and support. See y'all there, Brett

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### CFMS RULES COMMITTEE CHERI GEORGE - 2013 CFMS RULES CHAIRMAN

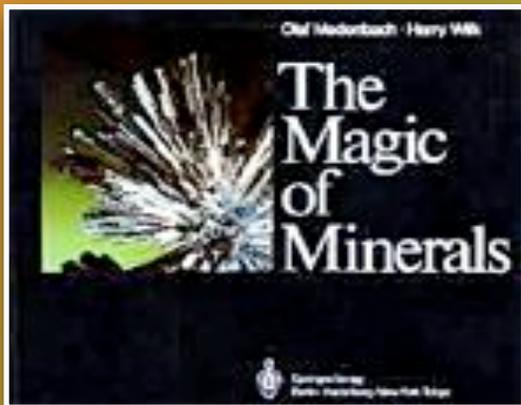
I am amazed by the lack of interest OTHER Federations have in competition. Don and I just returned from the NFMS Show in Butte, Montana. This is their 75th year and one would have thought that there were lots of competitive entries for this great event. No such luck, there were 9; yep, that's 9, as in one less than ten. I am flabbergasted to see such a total lack of interest in showing the wonderfulness of the hobby in such a large group of people. With the 56 competitive entries at our show in Ventura, we had more than the total of all the other Federations combined. That is a shame. WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE FROM COMPETING? WHY DO ROCKHOUNDS HAVE SUCH APATHY FOR SHOWING THEIR WORK AND/OR COLLECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC? There were lots of non-competitive cases and many of them were competition quality, but nevertheless they didn't enter for one reason or another. Such a shame! Take some time to look at your own work or collection, consider entering it in competition next time the chance comes along. We look forward to seeing some more wonderful cases in competition in the future.

*-Courtesy of the Oct CFMS Newsletter*

Hi OGMS,

Please remember the following rules when checking out a book:

1. You must be a current member with your dues paid, hopefully an active member.
2. Up to three books can be checked out at one time.
3. Books can be checked out for one month at a time you check them out at a meeting and bring them back the next following meeting. If you wish an extension, please arrange with the librarian.
4. Books must be brought back in good shape; any damage must be reported. If a book is lost, please make every effort to replace it or pay for it. Some books are very valuable.
5. If books are overdue a week, you will be called and reminded to return them ASAP.
6. Any book(s) you have that are relevant to our hobby and are fairly current, in good condition that you wish to donate to the library, it would be greatly appreciated.



# The Magic of Minerals

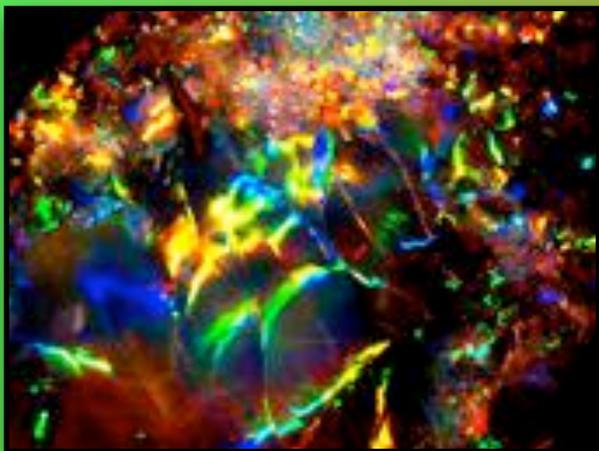
By: Olaf Medenbach &  
Harry Wilk

This is large book with fantastic mineral photographs that overwhelms you with its outstandingly brilliant pictures. You can't really read it in bed with you - it's too big! The book is one I would put in my office waiting room for my patients to enjoy. However this would also be a disservice to the book because even as it is so well illustrated, there are outstanding texts that go with the photographs. With each photograph the text describes the pictured specimen's crystalline structure, crystal symmetry, its physical properties, where it originates and occurs. It gives the official names and classification of each mineral photographed. The beautiful photos will completely enthrall you, the text will inform and educate you. Give your eyes and brain a treat; it would be great to share with kids too! Again, Enjoy!

Yer ole  
Librarian, K



## OPAL, OCTOBER'S BIRTHSTONE



**Opal** is the birthstone for the month of **October**. In the Zodiac, it corresponds with Aries, Scorpio and Libra. Opal is also used as the gemstone gift for 18th wedding anniversaries. Like other special gemstones, Opal is associated with certain qualities. In this case, those qualities are hope, faith and confidence. It's important to remember that the Opal birthstone is used for all kinds of jewelry, including rings, pendants and bracelets. However, given the different varieties of Opal available in the market, the cost of Opal jewelry varies significantly depending on the value and quality of the gemstones used. Rings made out of Opal, for example, can range from \$100 to \$300, whereas pendants can reach as high as \$500. In terms of

appearance, Opal gemstones generally have a whitish

appearance, though it can have other colors as well. When a piece of Opal lacks color, it's because of the loss of water. The presence of water in a particular opal's structure is what allows it to have a rainbow-like appearance. Without it, the opal reverts back to its pale white appearance. This is the reason why those who mine opal will store these gems in water containers, so as to maintain their colorful appearance. As you might guess, any piece of Opal jewelry that has a pale colored gem would be considered relatively cheap.

### The History of Opal Birthstones

Many experts believe that the name "Opal" was originally derived from the Sanskrit word for "**upala**," which means *precious gem or stone*. It's also worth pointing out that Opal gemstones have been widely used for centuries either as jewelry or as an ornaments. The Romans, for example, were especially fond of this gemstone, and mined it extensively throughout Europe. The appreciation for Opal was also prevalent among the Aztecs who, in addition to using them as jewelry, also used these gemstones in creating temple art. When the Spanish arrived in what is today modern day Mexico, they also extracted large amounts of Opal for export back to Europe. Today, the most precious types of Opal come from Australia, Mexico and the United States. As in the past, Opal is still widely used in the creation of jewelry and special ornaments.

### The Modern Value of Opal Gemstones

The price for Opal based jewelry varies significantly. The most common types of Opal lack the brilliance and "play of light" that other gemstones have. Likewise, most kinds of Opal lack the necessary color to make them truly valuable objects. Another reason why Opal are not as valuable as other gemstones is that they are easily forged and imitated, thus reducing their unique value in the market. Despite these problems though, Opal remains a popular gemstone. Without its impurities, Opal can have different shades of color, including yellow, pink, red and gray. In fact, the most precious types of Opal are characterized by rainbow-like colors. This is where the word "Opalescence" comes from. The diffraction caused by Opal gemstones is what causes it to have a rainbow-like appearance, and is the source of its value as a gemstone.



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Smith, Erika. "YourBirthstones.com-Your Guide in the World of Birthstones and Precious Gems." YourBirthstones.comYour Guide in the World of Birthstones and Precious Gems RSS. Yourbirthstones.com, n.d. Web. 20 Sept. 2013. <<http://yourbirthstones.com/the-value-and-history-of-the-opal/>>.

# FIELD TRIP TO THE BISHOP AREA FOR GARNETS, AMMONITES AND HALITE



Donna and I went up early on Thursday the 12th to establish a camp at Pleasant Valley Campground, just north of Bishop next to the Owens River. The next morning, we went up to a campground in Round Valley to check out a rumor of large quartz crystals nearby and the tungsten mine at the end of the canyon. No basis was found for the quartz crystal rumor, but the canyon will be put on the calendar for the next trip! Great geology! A glacial valley with the tungsten mine at the end, large dumps, great topography with roof pendants in direct

contact with granite, great slot canyons and even a great old house with the sierra uplift directly behind. If you like photography and or geology, have we got a drive for you!

Rob Sankovich came up Friday followed by Kevin and Diane Grizard, all members of the Conejo Club. Camps were set up on the front area and we had a great evening talking about trips, past and future. Pesky raccoons visited the camp much of the night before, especially since I had accidentally left the tailgate up when we went to bed and had to get up and chase them out of the car. That morning there were raccoon tracks all around and all over the car from one end to the other! No harm done. Early Saturday the new rockhounds arrived from the Conejo Club, David Ross, Blake Wallor, Josh Frank and Jacob Ross from Northern Ca. It's good to see some young blood joining in the rockhounding fun!



We left camp just after 9:00 and met up with longtime friend Ray Ramirez of the Lone Pine Club who lives in Bishop. Ray is a friend from our college days who loves to collect. I rode up in Ray's 4 wheel drive pick-up and Rob took Kevin and Diane. We managed to get all 9 people in three vehicles up to the site. If you know the area, you know that is a fete! Donna stayed in camp in case of latecomers. Kevin uncovered some nice garnet bearing rock. After some

heavy hammering and nice specimen collecting, he shared the spot with the younger Conejo group. Ray pitched in and showed them his technic for breaking the hard garnet skarn. Many nice specimens were collected by those that wielded hammers and chisels. The weather was fairly hot, in the 90's, but everyone enjoyed the collecting and stayed until mid-afternoon.

*(Continues on next page)*





Back in camp that evening, we all had dinner together, then sat around camp and enjoyed the camaraderie and discussions. Of course, the raccoons joined in too. We could catch glimpses of them in the perimeter of the camp light and could hear their chatter.

Sunday morning the younger Conejo members had to head home, by way of the garnet area again and maybe blue beryl on the way. Ray, Rob, Kevin, Diane and I headed off to Luning, Nevada for the fossil ammonites, about 95 miles away. Luning is one of those communities

that if you blink you miss it. About 5 more miles across a dry lake and we were at the collecting site in New York Canyon. Rob, Kevin and I found spots and pretty much stayed put to break into the shale layers containing the ammonites. Most were pieces as the shale containing them was very fractured, however some smaller ones were found whole. Ray and Diane spent their time scouting the area. Diane picked up some copper ore from the wash where we parked. We all brought home ammonite material. It was hot, especially in the canyon with no steady breeze. We drank lots of water.

That night in camp, after dinner, sitting around and talking with Rob, Kevin and Diane, our nightly visitors returned (the Raccoons). Donna had driven the van last and the windows were down. We didn't realize that until a raccoon went running across the road with the bread, still in the wrapper, in his mouth. We had as many as 5 raccoons at one time running around camp, mainly, Rob's site. Rob's tent and ours as well, were on the "raccoon highway" next to the river. We had a regular "show" every night with all the raccoon's antics. We had lots of mosquitos in camp, too, since we were only a few feet from the river. But the evenings were really nice.

We had a rare opportunity for some great collecting on Monday, thanks to Ray's being an avid mineral collector and working on the Lake Owens re-watering and dust control project. He has access to the Owens Lake surface area and had been collecting some very nice plates of halite (salt) crystal plates recently. He said that this was an especially good time to collect since it had been really hot and no rainstorms in this particular area, the crystals were growing rapidly in the shallow brine. He volunteered to guide us out onto the



lake to collect at a spot that he had discovered where the crystals were very abundant and easy to reach. We followed Ray and another employee for a few miles onto the lake surface. There are over 200 miles of roads on the lake now. The lake surface was very bright and we all wore sunglasses. The brine was bright orange and 3-4 inches deep in the pools, so it was very "clean" collecting—not like Trona. To collect you would take a shovel or just your hands and walk over to one of the many pressure ridges that pushed up on the salt surface and flip slabs of the halite *(Continues on next page)*

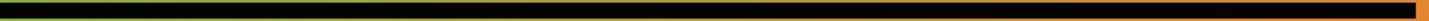
over to look for the abundant crystals underneath. They were plentiful and just beautiful sitting on pink plates of salt and a sparkly crystalline mineral called Berkite that formed a sturdy base for the crystals. The halite crystals are generally about 1/2 inch on edge with many larger, up to over an inch. They make very attractive specimens. I have a specimen that Ray gave me 3 years ago that still looks "fresh", although the pink color caused by a bacteria that turns to white over time. Diane flipped over a plate at one spot that was a good three feet across and completely covered with crystals. It took Kevin and me both to carry it to their van.



All the salt crystals at this site are formed as hopper crystals—that is the edges are shaped like little stair steps tapering down into the center of the crystals. This is caused by the crystals growing faster at the edges than the center and makes a varied and attractive crystal shape. Owens Lake is a vast area when you are out on it. It is 10 miles wide at the widest point.

After all is said and done it was a very fun filled trip with lots of new and varied rock, gem and fossil samples and some great times with old and new friends to remember in the future! Come with us on the next trip!

**Larry Knaption,  
Field trip Co-Chair for September**



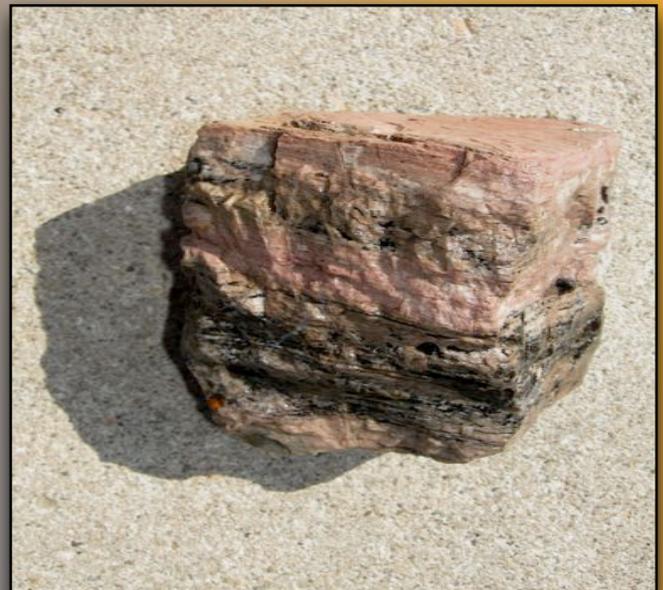
## OUR ROCKY STREAM BED FIND BY: CAROLYN HOWE

Bob Driskell and I went to Paradise Road (Lake Cachuma area) on September 14, 2013. Nearby a campground there was plenty of parking. We walked to the rocky stream bed near the road along the campground area. We were primarily looking for Jasper and secondly looking for some others like Chert, Agate and any others we would find.

Other people had been there before us, we saw signs of stones which had been dug and discarded along their way back. We did not do any digging, just picked up what we saw on the surface.

We loaded our backpacks one rock at a time, until we had enough rocks. I found two stones that I want to show, below are them for you all to see. I have Green Jasper and a pink and black rock which may be Rhodonite.

We were pleased with our 'finds' and enjoyed our outing. I think I would like to go there again after it rains.



# FIELD TRIPS

## 72nd ANNUAL GEM-O-RAMA

Sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

October 12-13, 2013

Saturday 7:30AM to 5PM - Sunday 7:30AM-4PM

SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building - 13337 Main St. (corner of Main & Trona Rd.)

**TRONA, CALIFORNIA  
OUTSTANDING SHOW-  
FREE ADMISSION**

**FIELD TRIPS - YOU DRIVE YOUR OWN  
CAR**

**SEARLES DRY LAKE - (2 1/2 hour trips  
on Saturday, 4 1/2 hours on Sunday)**

**REGISTRATION: 7:30-9:00 am and  
1:30-2:30 pm - you must register during  
these times to go on field trips:**

**Mud Trip- Saturday Only - Departs  
ONLY at 9AM- Cluster & barrel hanksite,  
trona, borax - \$10 per car**

**Blow Hole - Saturday Only - Departs  
ONLY at 2:30PM- Hanksite, halite, borax,  
sulfohalite - dry surface- \$10 per car**

**Pink Halite - Sunday Only - Departs  
ONLY at 9AM- In brine, beneath hard  
salt - \$15 per car**

**Pinnacles National Natural Landmark -  
Self guided, information at show - FREE**

**Searles Valley Minerals' Plants - Saturday  
only: 10:40, 11:25, 12:10, 12:55 and 1:40 - in  
bus - FREE**

**SEARLES LAKE PINK HALITE  
FROM THE SOURCE - WHOLESALE PRICES  
All Pink Halite collected with permission of  
Searles Valley Minerals**

**OTHER SHOW ACTIVITIES**

**21 Dealers - 50 exhibits - Geode cutting and  
sales - Demonstration - Games - Gem dig -**

**Free parking - Snacks & drinks - Grand Prize  
Drawing - Hourly door prizes  
Good Food in CATERED Cafeteria in Show Building  
LUNCH: Sat. and Sun. - 10AM to 4PM  
DINNER: Fri. (\$9.00) and Sat. (\$9.00)- 5PM to  
7PM**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST- TRONA COMMUNITY  
CHURCH (2 blocks north of show)  
Sat. 6 to 10AM, Sun. 6 to 9AM - Adults: \$5.00,  
children under 7: \$3.00  
Large groups - make advanced reservations for  
prompt service - call Gini Schwartz (760)  
372-5720**

**OLD GUEST HOUSE MUSEUM - Sat. 10AM to 4PM,  
Sun. 10AM to 2PM  
TRONA'S HISTORY HOUSE - Sat. 11AM to 4PM,  
Sun. 10AM to 2PM**

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**VALLEY WELLS RECREATION AREA - 5.3 miles  
north of show, \$5/vehicle (dry camp, no  
reserves).**

**Find LOCAL AREA MOTELS (Most in Ridgecrest,  
25 miles west, 2 offer special pricing)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit our web page at [www1.iwvisp.com/  
tronagemclub/](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/) or call Jim or Bonnie Fairchild  
(760) 372-5356**

**Note: above times and prices for show may  
change - last updated on 06/22/2013**

**THANKS FOR COMING -- HAVE A SAFE TRIP**

**Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 966 13337 Main St.**

**Also, for those who can or want to come  
early, on Friday, October 11, 2013, John  
Cook will be leading a field trip to other  
collection sites in the area. Depending on  
road conditions - I will email those details  
in a few weeks! There are several options  
including - Onyx Mine, Iron Mine, Calcite,  
Marble.**

**John Cook**

# UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

## **October 2 - 6: JOSHUA TREE, CA**

Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley, Yucca Valley  
Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree  
6225 Sunburst Street

Hours: 9 - 6 daily

Contact: Judy & Roger Thompson  
(760) 902-5340

Email:

[HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com)

Website: [http://](http://www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html)

[www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html](http://www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gem.html)

## **October 19: WEST HILLS, CA**

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way

Hours: 10 - 5

Email: [info@rockchippers.org](mailto:info@rockchippers.org)

Website: [www.rockchippers.org](http://www.rockchippers.org)

## **October 19 - 20: WHITTIER, CA**

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
Whittier Community Center  
7630 Washington Blvd  
(corner of Mar Vista & Washington)

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Marcia Goetz

(626) 260-7239

Email: [joemar1@verizon.net](mailto:joemar1@verizon.net)

## **October 5 - 6: BORON, CA**

Mojave Mineralogical Society  
Boron Community Building  
South End of Boron Avenue

Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

Contact: Steve Breckenridge  
(760) 559-0872

Email: [Rock5b@starband.net](mailto:Rock5b@starband.net)

## **October 12 - 13: VISTA, CA**

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7579

Email: [raysrocks@cox.net](mailto:raysrocks@cox.net)

Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

## **October 12 - 13: TRONA, CA**

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Gem & Mineral Building  
13337 Main Street

Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4

Jim & Bonnie Fairchild,

(760) 372-5356

Email: [slgms@iwvisp.com](mailto:slgms@iwvisp.com)

Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

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## **OXNARD GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**



*Proudly Presents the 44th Annual Galaxy of Gems Expo*

# **AGATE**

**"NATURAL ART BY DESIGN"**

**NOVEMBER 16-17, 2013**

*Oxnard Performing Art Center • 800 Hobson Way • [OxnardGem.com](http://OxnardGem.com)*

## Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society "Galaxy of Gems" Expo 2013

We would like to invite you to Exhibit at our 2013 "Galaxy of Gems" Expo.

Our theme this year is "AGATE – Natural Art by Design". The Show will be held on November 16th & 17th at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center (800 Hobson Way, Oxnard). Set-up times for your case will be Friday, Nov. 15th between 1:00 pm and 9:30 pm and on Saturday before 9:00 am.

Society guards will be on duty around the clock for security and members will be on hand to assist you in loading / unloading or in any other way that will make your stay enjoyable. A complimentary dinner will be served to exhibitors at 6:00 pm on Friday. Your exhibits must remain on display until the end of the expo on Sunday at 4:00 pm.

We would be honored to have you take part in our Show and would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Deadline to submit your Exhibit Form will be Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Please fill out and return the below entry form to:

**Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society c/o Brett Johnson**  
**5138 Corbina Way**  
**Oxnard, CA. 93035**  
or email the information below to: [bj9709@yahoo.com](mailto:bj9709@yahoo.com)

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL EXHIBIT A TOTAL OF \_\_\_\_\_ CASES.

WISH TO BORROW \_\_\_\_\_ OGMS CASES. (CASE INSIDES: 46inch x 22inch x 22in)

HAVE \_\_\_\_\_ OF MY OWN CASES, THEY ARE \_\_\_\_\_ inch WIDE by \_\_\_\_\_ inch DEEP

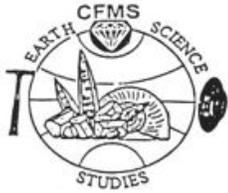
MY OWN CASES WILL BE: BOX \_\_\_\_\_ OR PONY UPRIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ / FLAT \_\_\_\_\_

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MY EXHIBITS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

JOINING FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER? \_\_\_\_\_ HOW MANY IN YOUR PARTY? \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE TO THE EXTREMELY HIGH INSURANCE PREMIUMS, OXNARD GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE TO EXHIBITS AND/OR THEIR CONTENTS.**



**THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.**



**DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND  
ENJOYMENT OF THE EARTH SCIENCES  
CAMP ZZYZX**

We invite you to join us at the Earth Science Seminar be held at Soda Springs (Zzyzx) located approximately 50 miles Northeast of Barstow, CA. Off I-15 at Zzyzx Rd.

Facilities are rustic, dormitory style rooms with bed, mattress & desk. Cleaning is the the occupant's responsibility . You must bring bed linen or sleeping bag, and any creature comforts you may desire i.e. lamp, throw rug, ice chest. RV parking is approximately 1/4 mile from the Center and has no facilities of any kind. All restrooms and showers are in separate buildings at the center and are communal.

The Earth Science Committee retains the right to accept or deny applications as they deem appropriate. This area is designated by the Government as a Desert Studies Center; consequently, **NO PETS ARE ALLOWED**. A limited number of reservations are available and an early application is recommended. Subject to change these classes will be offered:

LAPIDARY	BEADING	WIRE ART	FIELD TRIPS
SILVER FABRICATION	ADVANCED WIRE ART	PRECIOUS METAL CLAY	
SOFT STONE CARVING & SCRIMSHAW	FACETING	ALTERNATIVE CASTING	

The fee for the week is **\$390.00** per person and includes quarters or RV space, three meals per day, and classes. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by instructors.

**-- IF YOU USE YOUR RV YOU CAN SAVE \$50.00 --**

**NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER MARCH 1, 2014 unless a replacement is provided.** A \$25.00 Administration Fee will be assessed for cancellations prior to **March 17, 2014**.

Please complete the Registration form and Mail with full payment, payable to CFMS.

**MAIL APPLICATION TO:**

**AUDREY HARVEY**  
3363 Tuxford Place  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
805-492-2253

**CAMP ZZYZX DATE:**

**MARCH 30 - APRIL 6, 2014**

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY CONTACT:**

Marion Roberts  
209-538-0197  
e-mail [mvroberts1@comcast.net](mailto:mvroberts1@comcast.net)

**REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2014**

Applications received after this date will be placed on a stand-by list and considered only when a vacancy exists.

Please use block printing:

(A) Mr. Mrs. Ms \_\_\_\_\_

(B) Mr. Mrs. Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY. RV \_\_\_ DORM \_\_\_

ROOM REQUEST FOR MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL REASONS. PLEASE DESCRIBE \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS \_\_\_ DIABETIC \_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_ EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in classes desired:*

**FIRST CHOICE**

**SECOND CHOICE**

**THIRD CHOICE**

(A) \_\_\_\_\_

(B) \_\_\_\_\_