



Birthdays

Steve Strachan
April 13

Kim Noyes
April 15

Robert Bullock
April 21

Anniversaries

John and Elaine Von Achen
April 24

Who is Bringing Snacks?

Joe Goetz, Don Nasholm, and Debbie Hood are bringing cookies to the April General Meeting.



The Prez Box - April 2025



Greetings,

I have been doing some traveling. I just got back from camping at Cachuma Lake. I visited their Nature Center and they had a very nice display of rocks from around the lake. I was surprised that even that far inland they have found whale vertebrae and other sea fossils.

However, I am not sure about rock collecting there. I visited Long Island, New York for my grandson's birthday. He is eleven and already an avid rock collector. We didn't get time to look for rocks, since it was still pretty cold. And finally, my trip to Hawaii did not work out and I really wanted to see the volcano erupting....maybe next time.

I really am thankful for Wes Lingerfelt for his upgrading of a donated Cab King machine. I did get to try it out and it works great. I also dropped off some dop stick making material to help with making cabochons. It will be a great addition to our workshop.

I do want to mention one more thing about the workshop. We learned it pays to be careful...more about that later. We want to make sure that all members are trained on all the machines before they use them. A big thanks to Joey and Steve for doing so much to help our club.

Please get ready to get busy as our big show is coming in August.

Joe Goetz
President OMS

April 2025

April 7 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

April 8 at 7:00pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center.

Program: Wes Lingerfelt - Geology - Tentative

Display: Anything you like

April - Field Trip TBD

May 2025

May 5 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

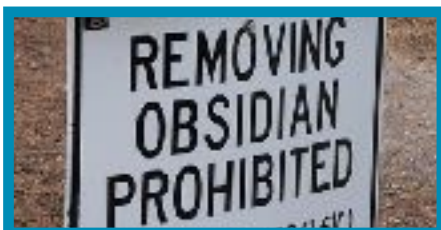
May 10 at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-Up at the SE Corner of Highway 101 and 166.

May 13 at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center.

Program: Geology of Molokai, Hawaii by Joey Nichols

Display: Rocks you found in Hawaii or volcanic rocks

May - Field Trip TBD



OMS HIGHWAY HEROES HIT THE PAVEMENT – AGAIN!

By Wayne W. Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

On a cool, sunny Saturday morning in March, about 8:00 AM, some of the OMS Highway faithful showed-up for our bi-monthly highway clean-up. We have been doing this activity since I joined the club in 1994, so we have moved a LOT of trash in the intervening years. Today I have to thank Steve and Lisa Siemsen (who have been faithful participants in the highway clean-up, but had not joined the club until our March 2025 meeting), as well as Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, and Joey Nichols for their help.

We met at "our" lot at the southeast corner of Highways 101/166 East about 8:00 am, and began our clean-up efforts. By about 9:00 am, I was finished (with the help of Steve and Lisa who did the main lot, then cleaned up the east-bound side of Highway 166 East to meet me). Near the turnaround point of Section 1, Lisa and I found a big pile of stuff that we wound up hauling back to the driveway where we leave our bags for Caltrans. That pile included a truck tire, a couple of insecticide tanks and sprayers, and a 10 gallon plastic bottle. After checking the parking lot again, I left for our rendezvous at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo while Steve and Lisa left for home. About 9:30, Wes, Marty and Geary showed up, and we discussed some of our interesting finds. These included: a tool apron with 3 wrenches found by Wes, a movie prop \$100 bill and a dead skunk found by Wayne, a push cart handle and a plastic ice bucket, and a box of hose clamps, many of which had been spilled along the route. As usual, Wes brought the incentive prize, a nice piece of polished Brazilian Agate that was done by his son Marty who passed it on to Joey who did not attend the breakfast.



NEW WEBSITE

<https://www.oms-inc.org>

Please update your web browsers.

Displays from the March General Meeting



Creative Rock Art With Patterson Elementary School

Joey Nichols just finished teaching a class about nature and art. She used Joe Goetz's paintings as an inspiration for the lesson. The students did some amazing art with rocks. Here are just a few of their works of art. Can you spot the rocks? They are expertly incorporated into the scene.



Rock Hunting With Mike Henson

By Margaret Henson (Edited for clarity by Tara Machin)

Well it is April 23rd at 8:30 am and we are finally ready to leave on our first road trip in quite some time. We headed north on Highway 49 from Jamestown, CA to Sonora, CA to visit Mike's sister, Chris. We had a nice visit and got to meet her granddaughter, Jackie. She is really a cutie. On Saturday, Chris took us to one of our favorite rock shops in Angels Camp: Stories in Stone. They always have something special. This time it was Amethyst Cathedrals at a real bargain. So, of course, we had to buy one, it is really beautiful. We got to shop in their wholesale area and picked up several really special rocks.

On Sunday we met Chris for breakfast then took Hwy 88 east out of Jackson towards Lake Tahoe and Carson City. We had a very long but nice drive today. We started with the green oak tree and flower covered hills along highway 49. Then we moved on to the thick forests along highway 88. Next were the sparse tree covered mountains of the high Sierras covered with snow, and finally down to the rolling volcanic hills of eastern Nevada along highway 50 covered with high desert brush. We arrived in Fallon, Nevada about 3:30pm and checked into our hotel.

The next day we went to visit Fallon's rock shops. The Gem and Rock Shop on the Reno highway was closed so we decided to give them a call. Sunny Ness said he would be happy to meet us. We spent some time there and Sunny gave us maps and directions to local rock sites. Every rock we picked out in his shop came with a story. We picked out several nice local specimens, and Sunny wrapped them and labeled them carefully and we were on our way.

The next day we went to the Highway 50-95 rock shop on the Reno Highway. The new owner had just purchased the shop. He really had a lot of inventory and was happy to give us a good discount on what we purchased.

That afternoon we went to the Wonderstone area. You take highway 50 east to Grimes Point where you turn left and go about 5 miles. Wonderstone is a type of rhyolite, a volcanic rock formed when magma or lava cools and hardens. It consists mainly of volcanic glass particles fused by heat and pressure. The stones can have colorful bands and patterns that come from iron oxides reacting within the rock. Wonderstones come in all colors from shades of maroon to cream and yellow-brown. There were several sites at the location depending on what color you are looking for. There are literally mountains of beautiful and interesting pieces. We filled two buckets in no time. There were also picnic tables and restrooms at this site near the highway.

The next morning we left Fallon heading east on highway 361 toward Gabbs, NV. We found some red and yellow jasper. The high desert scenery was very pretty with the snow-capped mountains in the background. We continued on highway 361 until we arrived in Tonopah, NV about 3:30 pm and checked into the Best Western Motel. There is a closed silver mine behind the hotel and the town is very small.

The next morning we went out rock hounding. We wanted to find an Apache tears site, but found very little. We went back to town to Otterson's World Famous Turquoise Store. They really had some beautiful stuff. The lady there gave us better directions to the Apache tear spot, turns

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

out we had not gone far enough. When we went back the next morning we could hardly believe our eyes. We found mountains on the side of the road with little black stones. We picked up quite a few loose Apache tears and also found lots of them still in their matrix. It was a good day. We went back to the turquoise shop to thank the lady and bought a turquoise leaf to have wire wrapped.

That afternoon we went to an agate location. We took highway 6 to highway 376. Then we turned left and went 1.3 miles to ruts on left side of road, then through a fence to continue another 7 miles to the collecting site. The road was very rough but we found lots of agate from small pieces to fist size.

On May 2nd we left Tonopah, NV and headed north on highway 6 toward Ely. We were looking for garnet hill. We found it about lunchtime. The view was beautiful but there was a cold wind blowing and no garnets to be easily found. It would take some hard rock splitting to find them. The air was thin and Mike was having trouble breathing so we decided we had better leave the garnets there for someone else. We had dinner in Ely and shared a piece of the most wonderful carrot cake. The next morning we set out for Majors place. We went south on highway 50/93 about 24 miles. There was supposed to be beautiful calcite in the road cuts along the side of the road but all we found was ugly, gray slate looking stuff. We took a couple of pieces just because we collect leverite and headed towards Painters Spring. To get to Painters Spring, take hwy 6/50 about 25 miles to a road that goes north. Then go 8.6 miles on a dirt road to the water tank. At the tank turn right toward the mountains and drive for another 2 miles. The last 2 miles the road were really rough. They weren't kidding about needing a four-wheel-drive vehicle. It was worth it, the view was beautiful and we found some nice feldspar. Turning around on the edge of the cliff was a problem and the ride down was very bumpy. We got several dings in the running board of the truck. That night we stopped in Delta, nothing was open except McDonalds. It was Sunday and we were in Utah. Mike had a very bad night that night so we decided to take it easy the next day.

The next morning we headed out again in search of that elusive special rock. We found some very interesting quartz rock that we later found fluoresced. One piece looks like a smiling pumpkin. We were able to find the Dugway geode beds. We did lots of digging there. We were hoping to find some pieces laying around on the surface, but we didn't.

The following morning on our way out of town we saw a flock of geese in a field and "Mr. Jones" the Magpie. We had seen him the day before driving thru the grassland area and by the daries. 13½ miles south of Delta where a road to the left goes over the train tracks we were able to pick up lots of pieces of labradorite, very small, glistening in the sunlight.

We went back to highway 257 and we headed for Milford, CA. We turned at the geothermal plant on county road 1034. We then went 1.2 miles to the railroad tracks and another 8.6 miles to the site. This area was so beautiful, green grass and all kinds of wild flowers everywhere. There were cows munching the nice green grass and the pretty flowers watching us. We found some nice pieces of obsidian and snowflake obsidian.

We had lunch at Arshels' which was recommended in the AAA book and it was the best meal we had had for some time. We checked into the Best Western Butch Cassidy Motel. The motel was very nice we stayed two nights.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

We had 3 more rock sites to visit along highway 21 to explore. We found Old Frisco, an abandoned mining town. Part of it was fenced off with a no trespassing sign but the other side was open. There were some old beehive shaped ovens and the ruins of some buildings. We had fun just looking around. We found some black, very hard, bubbly rock, don't know what it is, so I'll have to check the book. We saw a jack rabbit and 3 antelope from the car.

We left early and arrived in Mesquite, NV around 11am. The scenery was very beautiful and the rocks were so colorful. After some looking we were able to find our timeshare where we had reservations for the next week. Our friends, Bonnie and Darryl, arrived about 6:30 and we went to the Eureka Casino for dinner. The next day we spent reading travel brochures and had Mr. Darrel BBQ hamburgers for dinner.

The next day we drove to "The Valley of Fire" state park between Mesquite, NV and Las Vegas, NV. We took lots of pictures and had a picnic. It was very pretty.

The next day we went to "Zion National Park" and our national pass got us in free. We took the shuttle bus all around as they discourage driving in the park. We took a lot more pictures. We stopped at the "Silver Bear Rock and Gem" shop on the way from Zion. They had lots of nice stuff. We gave them some of our rock show fliers.

The following day we went to the "Corral Pink Sand Dunes" state park. The sand was very soft and hard to walk in I had to crawl to the top to see what was on the other side, it was worth it, The color of the sand dunes was beautiful.

Finally we had to start packing for the trip home. On Friday it was time to leave. We drove as far as Mojave and got a hotel for the night. We had dinner at Lucky's favorite restaurant, Mike's. We arrived home a little after noon and our kitty, Cinnamon, was so happy to see us.

Now what do we do with all these rocks!



Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

April 5, 2025 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers

Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

April 12-13, 2025 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

Contact: mcmc@sti.net

Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Canejo Gem and Mineral Club

Contact: Karen Abrahams (805) 908-1428

Website: <http://www.CGAMC.org>

April 26-27, 2025 – Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

May 2-3, 2025 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <http://YVGMS.org>

May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

May 16-18, 2025 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

May 30-June 1, 2025 – Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Contact: theresalanghans@yahoo.com

Website: <http://renogms.org>

More information can be found on the CFMS website at cfmsinc.org



OMS Membership

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.

OMS Online Contacts

Website	omsinc.org
Email	info@omsinc.org

Copyright 2025 Orcutt Mineral Society. Material in this newsletter may be duplicated provided that credit is given this publication and the author(s). For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted. Editor may be contacted c/o OMS, P.O. Box 106, Santa Maria, Ca. 93456-0106, or via club web site omsinc.org.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.

