

February 2005

## **PRESIDENT'S PATTER**



I had a great experience last week, and I just thought I'd share some of it with you. I gave a program on "Rocks and Minerals" to a group of Boy Scouts and adult Scouters. I worried beforehand about what to take, what I would say, in what order, etc, etc, etc. I picked out several pieces of rock types, as well as some fossils, several minerals, and some fluorescent specimens. I also had the big mineral chart that used to be in the CRA shop, and the little case of examples that the Manors had made up, and I had a display of some of my cabochons, and some of the stones I've faceted.

OK, so then I had the rocks assembled, actually with some idea in mind as to what I wanted to say, and in what order. I outlined in my mind how I wanted the presentation to go, and then, after 3 or 4 tries, finally got down on paper an outline for a talk that I hoped would be informative, interesting, and enjoyable. I was especially concerned about both of the latter.

Then came the "big night". I was sure I was ready. I even had some bite-sized candy bars to toss out to those bright people who could correctly answer the questions I was going to throw at them. Everything started out well, and I went from definitions to types to examples, etc. Most of the questions I asked were readily answered by someone. I passed around a couple of fulgerites and asked if anybody could tell what they were.... no one could, and they were fascinated to learn the answer. I showed the fluorescent specimens and got the usual "oohs & aaahs". I showed the lapidary work I had there, including a board I made up showing step-by-step how a cab is cut out, ground, sanded, & polished. I asked them questions, and

they asked several of me. At the end, I received a big round of applause and many "thank you's".

So, I was feeling pretty good about the whole thing. But, then, as I was packing up the stuff, I picked up the outline I'd fretted about so much and written so meticulously, and realized that I hadn't even looked at it during the talk. Thinking back, though, I was sure I'd covered all that I'd hoped to, and everyone seemed to really enjoy it.

I guess the moral of the story is, don't worry about it so much ahead of time, and, like the Nike ads say, "just do it".

Jerry Lohmann, President

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting was called to order by Jerry Lohmann at 6:40. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were no minutes of the previous meeting ... it was the Christmas Party.

**Hospitality Report:** None -- all must be doing well. Someone reported that Bob Bulick had fallen and hurt his hip, but was recovering.

**Membership Report:** None -- 15 people were attending. One of those was a guest ... Jack Claypool.

**County Council Report:** None

**CFMS Report:** A count of the membership is needed so dues can be paid.

**Old Business:** None

February 2005

**New Business:** There will be a lecture on January 20th, 7pm, at the GIA in Carlsbad. It will be on Gems and Rubies. Everyone is invited to go up and see it. For more information check with Ed Keller.

Regarding Quartzsite -- we will camp at the usual site. There is someone going over on the 20th [Bob Bryne] to hold the site. No one at the meeting said they were going to camp ... however several have said they were driving over to visit.

Jerry asked if we should get the tumbled stones again to give out at the Fair and it was agreed that we should do it.

Arrangements have been made for the rooms at Tierrasanta Rec Center and Kearny Mesa Rec Center for another year.

**Door prizes:** Ed Keller, Franklin Wade, Al Thompson, Bob Plunkett, Lynda Lohmann, Jim Claypool, Jerry Lohmann, Mary Jane Dunn, Jean Kreutzer, Mary Otto, Bob Kreutzer, June Wade, Elaine Thompson, Jack Claypool, Al Thompson, Jerry Lohmann, Jean Kreutzer, Jim Claypool, and Jack Claypool. As you can see we had more door prizes than we had members attending.

**Raffle:** Mary Otto, June Wade, Franklin Wade (3 times), Mary Jane Dunn and Jean Kreutzer.

**The program for the night** was Bob Plunkett talking about the making of his belt buckles. For those who missed the meeting, you missed a good program.

Meeting closed at 7:45.

Lynda Lohmann, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

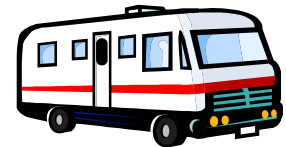
There was no Board meeting, we did not have a quorum -- just the Lohmanns and Jim Claypool showed up. Jim reported there was about \$9600 in the Clubs bank accounts. We said we would get some tumbled stones when we go to Quartzsite the end of January. Those will be given out at the fair, as usual.

Lynda Lohmann, Secretary

**The schedule for the future Board Meetings is as follows -- Mar 8 - May 10 - July 12 (picnic planning meeting)**

## FIELD TRIPS

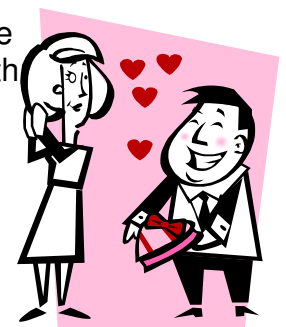
????????????? Chairperson



There will be a gathering a few of the CRA members at Quartzsite at the usual spot. Sorry I do not have dates nor schedule of who will be there and when, or what they are planning.

(Ed. Note) I promised not to harp on our dreadful need of someone to volunteer to be the Field Trip Chairperson so I won' t type a single word about it. I hope you all have/had a good time.

All of you lovers out there Remember February 14th is Valentines Day.



February 2005

## HOSPITALITY CORNER



Emmeline Ellis, Chairperson

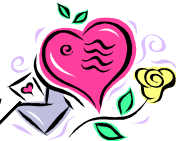
I have not received any information regarding any of our members being ill, so I hope that means that all are well.

## MEMBERSHIP

Phyllis Mahoney and Gary Draper, Chairpersons

The Membership Roster will be included in the March Tektite. If you have any corrections or changes to be made in your personal information please contact Phyllis Mahoney at (858) 271-9356 or Betty Schneider at (951) 676-5588.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY CELEBRANTS



Emeline Ellis 2-05  
Betty Schneider 2-21

## PROGRAM

Bob Cadman, Chairperson

This month is our annual **Dirty Bingo Party**. Remember to bring a wrapped "white elephant gift" for each member who will be playing. The rules will be set forth, and probably argued about, before starting.

This is always a good time, and just a lot of good old fashioned fun,

especially when watching the "competition" started by a rare or treasured item. One year it was a **place mat with gem information**, another year it was a **singing bird in a cage**, three years ago it was a **talking toilet**. The toilet showed up again last year.

The usual rules of the game are as follows: The first person to get a bingo selects a prize from the table, returns to her/his seat, and then unwraps and places it on the table in front of her/him.

The next person to get a bingo, and all subsequent winners including the last one, will pick a wrapped prize and then decide whether to keep it or exchange it for one of the unwrapped prizes already selected.

If they choose an unwrapped one, they will exchange the wrapped one for the unwrapped and the person whose prize was taken will unwrap it.

After all of the prizes have been selected the winner of the first game has the option of keeping her/his prize or exchanging it for any of the other unwrapped ones.

## Keeping Public Lands Public

By Bob Cranston,

***From the AFMS Newsletter, December 2004 via C.F.M.S. Newsletter Feb 2005***

*This was sent to me [Bob Cranston] by an officer in the BLM. I think his advice is good and if anyone wants to protect their rock collecting privileges, this would be one good way to start. The other and best way is to get off our duffs*

February 2005

*and do something. First download and print out and digest the 7.3 megabytes of material listed below. If you can't digest it and make a decision, get some help. There are at least a couple of lawyers in our group and although they are up to their ears in work, they will talk to you. If you print this out, you will have the e-mail addresses of at least a couple of them. They are your peers; so don't hesitate to talk to them.*

*I am purposefully omitting the name of the BLM officer who sent this to me, so he doesn't have to answer questions of WHY? from superiors.*

### **Keeping Public Lands Public**

Dear fellow rock hunter recreationists: Today I stumbled upon a valuable document that can help all of us fight for the use of public lands to continue our hobby.

We can take a page out of the other side's book to assist our efforts to participate in the resource management decisions of the BLM and the US Forest Service that may unjustly restrict our rights and abilities to collect rocks, fossils and minerals.

Actually, this is 7.3 megabytes of pages from the Wilderness Society "book" titled "A Conservationist's Guide to BLM Planning and Decision-Making Using FLPMA and NEPA to Protect Public Lands."

(<http://www.wilderness.org/Library/Documents/upload/BLM-Citizen-s-Guide-full-report.pdf>)

Just as the wilderness advocates can use knowledge about federal agency decision-making and processes to lock us out of public lands, rockhounds can take the same knowledge to present opposing information and perspectives. Each of us can become informed about what's being planned in areas of collecting that are our favorites. Personal visits to ranger stations, field trips with the geologists or recreation planners are valuable to make

us know and our interests heard. Participating in the planning processes also gives us "standing" to protest or appeal decisions that are made against our hobby in spite of our previous inputs. Rockhounds don't have the multi-million dollar budgets of the eco-scare organizations, but we can use our existing club and federation contacts to lobby agency managers and legislators. We could team with like-minded groups that would amplify our voices.

A personal pitch of mine is for us to keep other political agendas separate from our interest in either promoting responsible collecting opportunities or opposing unreasonable restrictions. Some of the other groups that support access to public lands have tended to attach unrelated philosophies and themes, such as right to bear arms, and property rights, for examples, to their messages. These themes may be important in themselves but they distract from our main interest and shift discussion from facts to opinions and emotional responses.

Last item: A plug for the Barstow BLM office website pages on rock hunting in the Barstow, CA area.

(<http://www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/rock.html>) This is an excellent summary of collecting rules and some descriptions of local collecting sites. I haven't confirmed it, but I suspect Harold Johnson, Recreation Chief of the Barstow BLM office is to be thanked for the good work.

### **About Bob**

Rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts lost a dedicated friend and advocate for the protection of public lands. Bob Cranston passed away on Sunday, January 2nd from pneumonia. His total dedication to ALAA was unsurpassed by anyone one of us who worked toward keeping public lands open to rockhounds. His contacts kept us all

February 2005

informed on all the many area of concern. He watched for any closures of public land and pending litigation from all sources that would infringe on our rights to collect on public land. His interpretation of governments term "multiple use of public land" was his cornerstone of concern. At earlier meetings of ALAA, everyone waited impatiently for Bob to speak to the concerns of the day. His knowledge of what was happening concerning public lands was invaluable.

He spent many hours each day searching websites for coming and pending legislation and possible law

suites by environmentalists. Bob served AFMS and ALAA with distinction, there will never be another person as dedicated as Bob to our cause. We have lost our heart and soul today.

From Dee Holland

## Romance on the rocks



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

*Dolores, you are our "Valentine Day Sweetheart" every day. Thank you for your contributions.*