

April 2004

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

Hi again.



Well, here it is again, almost spring, the end of March, the first of April (I hope nobody "got you".....or "gets you.....on an April Fool's joke).

A lot of my time these days is spent getting the dahlia tubers and the garden ready for planting. But, another portion of my time lately has been spent in wondering about developing a new merit badge for Boy Scouts: "Rockhounding".

The Scouts already have a "Geology" merit badge (for which, of course, I'm a counselor), but, while it does require a small, identified collection of rocks, it is mostly concerned with geologic processes, and not the many different aspects of our hobby. I was thinking a Rockhounding merit badge could include an expanded collection requirement, a requirement to meet (not necessarily to have to join) with a rockhound group a few times, would encompass at least learning about lapidary arts (cabs, faceting, jewelry-making), and stone tumbling, and would touch on minerals, crystals, fluorescent minerals, etc, etc, etc.

At this point, I'm still in the "thinking about it" stage, although I have made a few inquiries with the Boy Scouts of America about the process of submitting ideas, write-ups, etc for new merit badges.

Now I want to pose a question to you. As rockhounds yourselves, what do you feel **SHOULD** be included in such a merit badge for Boy Scouts? I really would like your input on this. A group like ours should be ideal for coming up with a lot of great suggestions for a project like this. Please, think about this, write down your suggestions or an outline you feel should be followed, and give those to me at the next meeting. I am not familiar with their program, but maybe we could

submit a suggested badge program to the Girl Scouts, too (unless they already have one that fills the bill).

PLEASE, please, please give me your ideas!!!!!! One reason I'm trying to develop this idea is because it's from today's youth that tomorrow's rockhounds will come. Let's help them get started. Thanks.

Jerry Lohmann, President

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING



Minutes of the March 2, 2004
General Meeting of the Convair
Rockhounds

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by President Jerry Lohmann.

Hospitality: Emeline Ellis reports that Ann Ludlam is not feeling well, and that a card is in circulation. She also said that Ralph Davis had fallen again.

Membership report: Phyllis Mahoney reported 24 member present.

County Council report: as Jim Sugg not present there is no report this month.

Old Business: None

New Business: Picnic asked about and it was reported that we need to plan earlier this year because of the facility wanted earlier information from applicants.

Show and Tell: President Jerry Lohmann announced that Al Thompson's fluorescent minerals were on display. Al designed a great new case for them. And that Jim Claypool, Bob and Lynne Cadman had specimens from the Luna Blue agate they had somehow managed to find bits of in New Mexico.

Door Prizes and Raffle: Bob and Bobbie Plunkett ran the drawings and the winners were:

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Elaine Thompson, Gary Clark, Emmaline Ellis, Linda Clark, Betty Schneider, Jim Claypool, and June Wade.

Program: Bob Cadman introduced the program, a video of Karchtner Caverns which Jim Claypool had purchased for the club. It was one of the events of the Arizona/New Mexico trip just recently returned from.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Lynne Cadman,
Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 7:10. Those present were Al Thompson, Bob and Lynne Cadman, Linda and Gary Clark, Jim Claypool and Jerry and Lynda Lohmann.

Jim gave the Treasurers report from January and February -- and we are still solvent. The \$100 carpet cleaning check was returned. \$322.30 for the Tektite costs. He paid the FMS dues of \$432 which is \$6 per person in the Club. This is \$1.50 to CFMS and \$450 for insurance. Jim says he has now listed his address as the society's address.

Lynne Cadman reported that she has the go ahead to get subscriptions for both the Rock and Gem magazine, and Lapidary Journal, for 3 libraries (San Carlos, Tierrasanta, and Mission Valley), and will be getting that started immediately.

March is the time to come up with new officers for the Club. Jerry will ask John Duncan if he would like to contact any prospective new officers.

Discussed was the picnic. Jim Claypool said he might not be here this year to cook, but said they could cover it. We will ask Phyllis Mahoney if she could

get the same spot at Miramar for the date of August 21st (or if not that date the 14th.) It is always a lot of fun, so everyone should think of coming.

Jerry Lohmann told everyone of the Presidents letter he wrote this time. Wants everyone to think of ideas that could be incorporated into a new merit badge for Boy Scouts -- one on Rockhounding. There is a Geology one, but nothing really concerning Rockhounding. Be sure to come to the meeting with your ideas.

Meeting was adjourned about 7:35 -- and we sat around talking for a bit.

Lynda Lohmann,
Secretary

Next Board meeting will be May 11, 2004.

FIELD TRIPS



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

As all of you know we DO NOT have a Field Trip Chairperson nor do we have an active field trip program.

I will try to post information about where and when other Clubs and groups are going out and doing what we would all like to do and that is ROCKHOUND.

CFMS Field Trip South - April 23-25
see further info on page 7.

DIE HARD ROCKHOUNDS (Internet Rockhounding Club)--

March 20 & 21, 2004

BAKERSFIELD RENDEZVOUS, DIEHARD ROCKHOUND CLUB ROCK SALE.

Every one is welcome to join us there. We will be dry camping out for the 2-day event. Field trip leader will be

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leaving to Bakersfield on Friday March 19th.

We will need help with our **DIEHARD-ROCKHOUND INFORMATION TABLE**. This is our first chance to make money for ourselves. Contact Thomas Hess at ThomasCarlHess@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining us any of the 2 days.

March 26, 27 & 28th, WILEY WELLS DIEHARD ROCKHOUND 3-DAY FIELDTRIP. Thomas Hess and Dave Guin are leading this Fieldtrip. Wait for Thomas or Dave's posting of Meet up location and daily event schedule. I currently have no more info on this except that it will take place.

April 11th, Cryo-Genie mine Fieldtrip. Cost is \$20.00, includes a mine tour. This field trip is already filled. Although I'll accept 4 more stand by names for the to-go list in case of drop outs. More info to come. ThomasCarlHess@yahoo.com

April 18th, THURSDAY MINE RE-RE VISITED. More info to come soon.

April 23, 24 & 25th. North Caddy Mountains, Bob Fitzpatrick has invited the DIEHARD ROCKHOUNDS to join his fine Field trip. This should be a good one, Bob knows his way around this area. It's a 3 day event with a large group [bigger than ours]. It includes potluck dinners and daily fieldtrips to collecting areas all around this area. I WON'T MISS THIS ONE. See page 7 for more information.

May 16th, THE CARMALITA MINE, Thanks to Scott Richie & Erik Cordova for inviting our club to their mine. This should be a really good trip. Make a special effort to make this one. Scott told me that the view from here is wonderful. More details to come.

HOSPITALITY CORNER

Emmeline Ellis, Chairperson

Anna Lee Ludlam

On March 19, 2004, at 9:30 AM, Ann returned to her Maker and rejoined Dick, after a valiant fight with cancer.

Ann was a very active member of CRA for many years. She served as secretary the first year they joined. She also served as President, Gemboree Chairperson for several years. For many years she was responsible for signing up the many members of different clubs to man the information table in the Gem Building at the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar.

Last year many of us knew that something was wrong because she was always very visible at the Fair but last year she did not have the energy to be there daily.

She is survived by her daughters Teresa and Judy and her son Richard; four grand children Heather, Janell, Trevor and Richie; two great grand children Bowen and Gavin. She is also survived by her Bearded Dragon lizard "Captain Jack" who she loved to watch. She fell in love with him at a pet store because every time she went in and looked at him he looked back at her and had such a cocky uppity attitude (you know what they say about birds of a feather). When you feed him his crickets you can just imagine him shouting "Yes, yes, yes!!" and he sort of has that same look on his face that she did when she won those door prizes!

We are all going to miss her energy, cheerfulness, and willingness to help everyone; her hat, the way she would say, "Yes, Yes, Yes!!!" when she won the door prize or drawing, the wonderful ceramics that she made. They were all part of Ann and Ann was part of them.

There will be a "Celebration of Ann's Life", on Sunday March 28, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. It will be at her home, 3542 Ben St. our phone number is (858) 278-0409. If anyone would like to write a note to her, we are going to tie them to balloons and send them to heaven for her to read.



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Ralph Davis took another spill. This time it was the day before elections instead of on Election Day. *Ralph get better fast and be careful out there.*

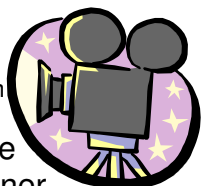
John and Peggy Duncan could use our thoughts and prayers on a continuing basis. As could many of our members who are fighting chronic medical problems of one type or another.

If you know of anyone who is under the weather, having surgery etc. please let Emmeline Ellis know so she can send a card and notify the Editor.

PROGRAM

Bob Cadman, Program
Chair

Possibly the completion of the Karchtner Caverns Video from last month. It is very interesting and I know I want to go some day soon.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL CELEBRANTS

Jim Schneider	4-03
Dorie Bailey	4-12
Ralph Davis	4-14
Bob Kreutzer	4-20



SHOP and FIELD TRIP HINTS

Remember, your Editor only writes these things up. She DOES NOT try them out!!

Ed Hansen's Time-Tested Shop Tips

From The Pegmatite Feb 2004

Polishing psilomelane: Use 100,000 diamond on canvas to get good results.

Polishing fire agate: Use tin oxide on leather, dry. Polishes in a heartbeat! Heat causes the tip surface of the stone to flow, making it glassy.

Polishing jade: Heat it up! Use polish on leather. Hold the stone with your fingers, so you know it's not getting too hot.

Gluing doublets: Use 330 epoxy, it's the best. 200 epoxy dries yellowish. The longer you mix the 330 epoxy, the harder the bond will be. Use a bell jar vacuum to pull the bubbles out of the epoxy bond line in your doublets.

Graceful cab shapes: When shaping a cabochon, cut one or more inside curves using the diameter of the grinding wheel. (Titans have 8-in. diameter wheels, Genies have 6-in. wheels, etc.) After shaping the cab, sand and polish the inside curves first.

Cutting slabs: Cut thin chunks of rough on the bias (diagonally) to yield larger slabs.

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Storing sandpaper, Idea #1: Sheets of sandpaper can be put in manila envelopes: one envelope per grit. The manila envelopes can be kept together in a magazine box, which is sold at most office supply stores. Magazine boxes are made in cardboard, plastic and wood and if you get at least the plastic kind you can easily mount them above your workbench so that they are always within reach but don't clutter up your bench.

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Idea #2: Another way to store and organize sandpaper is with an accordion folio, also available at office supply stores. These folios, which are usually used to save receipts or other records, have lots of separate compartments, and even have tabs so you can write down what mesh is in each pocket.

Storing your silver stock: You can also use these accordion folios to organize your silver stock (sheet, wire, etc.) and cut down on scratches. However, another way to organize your silver stock is to get sheet protectors that fit into a 3-ring binder. These are individual plastic pockets designed to protect a sheet of paper. You can put a single piece of silver stock in each sleeve and keep them all in a 3-ring binder. When you need to browse through your silver stock you can flip from page to page and see exactly what you've got. Plus the plastic sheets keep the pieces of silver from scratching each other.

From The Pegmatite March 2004

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Cabbing Hint: Transparent stones should be polished on both front and back. Otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks.

From Rockhound Gazette via THE AGATIZER, November 2003

Clean Obsidian needles by washing in Castile soap using a toothbrush to get the clay off. Never put obsidian in detergent as it will leave a white film, which is very hard to remove. To remove stains, soak in oxalic acid and then wash well.

From the Rock Bag via San Diego Lapidary Society Sept 2003

Acid disposal: Instead of dumping used acid (oxalic, muriatic, etc.) down the drain, where it will cause pollution and might damage plumbing, or let it sit where it may endanger someone, try the following: put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware crock (**do not use metal**) with a piece or two of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can safely be dumped almost anywhere.

From Napa Gems via San Diego Lapidary Society, September 2003.

Slab Saw Tip

By Wayne Moorhead, SDMG School Director

This month I thought I would share a slab saw tip with all you do-it-yourselfers. Some time ago I bought a used 18" slab saw and spent several days scraping years' worth of oily rock sludge from the bottom. Vowing to never do this again, I decided to convert it from a wet sump (where the blade runs in the oil) to a dry sump, where the oil is pumped from a 5-gallon bucket onto the blade and drains back into the bucket. The reasons for using the oil pump are: (1) to keep the oil cleaner, since it's continuously filtered by a cloth sock as it drains back into the bucket; (2) to prevent rock sludge from building up in the saw, creating a major cleanup chore; and (3) to make changing the oil easier -- just swap out the bucket of dirty oil for clean oil.

I bought a small submersible fountain pump that could also be used for light oil, and connected it to some 1/2" ID plastic tubing. This pump was rated 170 GPH, as you want a good flow of oil. I put a short plastic 2" pipe fitting on the saw's drain pipe, drilled a 1/2" hole through the side of it, and ran the tubing up through it into the saw. This meant I didn't have to drill any holes in the saw base to run the tubing into it. Secure an old sock around the plastic drain fitting below where the 1/2" tubing passes into

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it, and let it hang down into the bucket. The sock filters out most of the sludge as the oil drains back into the bucket. Discard and replace the sock when it becomes nearly full.

I didn't think it should be necessary to pump oil to the TOP of the blade, since it used to run in about 1/2" of oil at the BOTTOM of the blade. So I decided to construct a small "gutter" below the blade, and pump oil continuously into it while the blade was running. I built a small Plexiglas box about 10" long by 1" wide by 2" high, with an open top, that could have been made from sheet metal, wood or anything else that would hold oil around the bottom center of the saw blade. Drill a hole in one end of the "gutter" that will snugly hold the 1/2" tubing from the pump. I attached two very strong magnets to the bottom of my "gutter" to anchor it to the bottom of the saw, and centered the gutter under the blade.

With a half-full bucket of oil, plug in the pump and it should rapidly fill the "gutter" and start overflowing, wetting the blade and draining back into the bucket. Start the saw and you should have a good spray of oil from the blade, just like when the sump was full of oil. The gutter won't stay full, but the blade should stay continuously wet from the oil flow into the gutter. One thing to watch for is that the pump doesn't get plugged up and stop pumping, which can cause the blade to overheat and warp. Clean the pump's filter regularly, keep your oil relatively clean, and it won't be a problem.



San Diego

County Fair 2004

What's New At The Fair?

From The Pegmatite Feb 2004

It's never too soon to begin to plan! Here is the 2004 Gem & mineral Dept. info:

Entry form deadline: Friday, Apr 30, postmark OK

Entry fee: \$7 per entry

Exhibit setup: Saturday, Jun 5, 10-5; Sun, Jun 6, 10-5

First day of Fair Friday, Jun 11

Last day of Fair: Monday, Jul 5

Days Fair is closed: Three Mondays, Jun 14, 21 & 28

Exhibit pickup: Tuesday, Jul 7, 10-8

Mineral of the Year: Mexican minerals. Single specimen or five specimens, any size.

Fossil of the Year: Petrified wood. Any size, worldwide, opalized or silicified.

Mineral collectors: Two "Mineral of the Year" classes have been inserted, just for this year, so almost all of your classes have been renumbered. Other than that, have fun!

Faceters: Watch out! All your classes have been renumbered. Be sure to get the number right on the entry form. Plus, old Class 29, "One rough and one faceted stone from San Diego County" has been replaced by new Class 30, "One rough and faceted stone from Mexico". Remember to make labels accurate: include mineral and locality (or name of synthetic material), carat weight, and cut.

Cabbers: That pesky Class 37, "Three cabs with matching rough from California" has been replaced (for this year only) by "Three cabs with matching rough from Mexico".

Jewelers: Everyone enjoyed Class 50, "Pearl Jewelry", so much that it has been held over for another year! Theme Jewelry, Class 51, has been changed from last year's "Commotion by the Ocean" theme to "Subject to be choice of the exhibitor". Give your creativity free rein! You'll have a half-case to decorate and 3 to 5 pieces to celebrate your theme. Take care with your labels, make

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them business-card size, use black ink on white paper, and keep them unobtrusive.

Questions?? Call Gem & Mineral Department Coordinator Greg Anderson at (858) 488-1420.

CFMS FIELD TRIP SOUTH

Where: - Northeast side of the Cady Mountains, Afton Canyon area.

When: April 23-24-25, 2004

Sponsor: CFMS Field Trip South

Organization: CFMS

Material to collect: Red and yellow agate, jasper, (plume & sagenite) opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules, green fluorite, onyx and much more.

Leader: Bob Fitzpatrick

Proposed Schedule: Early Friday will be for setting up camp. Friday around 1 p.m. I will be leading a field trip. Each day around 8 a.m. we will be going to a different area to collect. There will be a potluck Saturday around 5 p.m.

Vehicle: 4-wheel drive from camp to collecting areas. The desert road is sandy and in some areas has large rocks in it.

Camp & Facilities: This will be dry camping, no water, no picnic tables, no toilets, no firewood to be gathered and no fees.

Tools: Collecting bags, rock hammer, eye hear, flashlights, spray water bottle, etc. camp chair (to sit in at night around the fire.)

Safety concerns: Do not lick the rocks, use sunscreen, stay away from rattlesnakes, us bug spray, be aware of flash floods, be extra careful and don' t get lost.

Climate & Weather: It can be hot during the day and cold at night, it could rain.

Clothing: Appropriate for this time of the year.

Other remarks: All club members and their guests are welcome to join us.

Come for the day or camp out with us. Bring food, lots of water, a camera and lots of firewood for the campfire at night. If you need a motel or supplies, they are available in Baker or Barstow. Don' t forget we will have a potluck on Saturday night, so bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Each night after dark we will have a campfire where we can all join together and have a good time roasting marshmallows, telling jokes or just talking about the good OLE times.

I should be arriving at campsite around 11 a.m. on Friday. Saturday and Sunday we will be leaving the camp at around 8 a.m. and drive to the collecting areas.

You must observe the AFMS code of ethics and sign a consent and assumption of risk waiver of liability form. Hope to see you there.

For additional information: E-mail me at RUROCKY2@aol.com or call me at (909) 845-3051. Bob Fitzpatrick, CFMS Field Trip Chair - South, 2004

DID YOU KNOW??

That there is a National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame? It' s housed in Murdo, South Dakota, within the Pioneer Auto Museum and it' s a very special place.

Begun in 1987 by June Culp Zeitner, one of our hobby' s "national treasures", the Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the hobby in the fields of lapidary, minerals, fossils, education and jewelry. There is also a category for honoring deceased individuals. Six people are inducted into the Hall every year and are chosen from nominations received from individuals and clubs throughout the U.S.

Those chosen for inclusion in the Hall of fame have their photograph and a

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brief biography placed on a wall in the room which is shared with a portion of the Zeitner collection of gems, minerals, and fossils. Some of the inductees have also donated examples of their work to this museum and these are displayed in a showcase opposite the photographs. It is a very impressive display! Past inductees include Olive Colhour, John Sinkankas, Harold & Erica Van Pelt, Bob Jones, Paul Desautels, and Jerry Harr.

From the AFMS Newsletter 9/03 via The Pegmatite, March 2004

up position. No one is certain as to why they didn't die in a flattened position like those found in the West and in other countries. It really is an easy problem to solve: The trilobites in the Midwest were more economical and able to make ends meet.

Midwestern Mystery: In Kansas, trilobites are generally found in a curled-
Dolores Wheeler, you are "our Gem of the Earth" every month. Thank you.

