

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Presents

Rockonteur

Volume 24, Issue 11

Page 1

Letter from the President:

I was a little nervous at my first general meeting last month, but no one threw anything at me, so I guess I did ok! It seemed that everyone enjoyed having our “Sunshine Person” back at the meetings. I will be choosing someone different each month for Sunshine Person.

Jim Mill’s presentation last month was a real eye-opener! The rockhound with a full truck of rocks that breaks down is the perfect opening. It really made me think to myself about my rock hounding habits and expectations. Many of my favorite rockhounding journeys have been the entire adventure, not just picking up rocks. Thank You Jim.

Wayne Mill’s field trip last month was a lot of fun. The group went to multiple locations in the Avila area. It was interesting to see the different geology in our own backyard. And, we met the DeeDee that discovered DeeDeeite! I hope Wayne will take us on an adventure again soon!

The Holiday seasons is here. Our own Santa Lucia RockHounds **Holiday Party** is also around the corner. This party is the general meeting as well. Last year’s party was great, with over 40 people smiling and having a great time. The club will introduce the new Club Officers, and we will have our “Famous Gift Exchange” that everyone loves, dammit!! Remember, no meeting in Templeton in December. The party will be held at the Culinary School in Paso Robles on December 15th. Hope to see every one there.

There’s geology classes coming soon! The club is planning to start the classes in January or February, so as not to interfere with the Holidays. **Jack Raven** has been working on this for a few months, and the Club Thanks You. A very special Thanks to **Penny**, the owner of **Ruby Dragon**, where the classes will be held. Thanks again Penny.

The Nominating Committee has been working hard finding candidates for open positions. We will vote on all voting positions at the next general meeting. At this time the Committee has candidates for each position, but it is not too late for anyone to run for any position.

If you are planning on heading out to Lavic Siding or The Hauser Geode Beds this Thanksgiving Holiday, be sure to let me know so we can rendezvous. A good time will be had by all!.....Mike Judy

Next Board Meeting

November 10th

The Wellness Kitchen

1255 Las Tablas Rd. Ste 102

Templeton @ **7pm**

Everyone is invited

Next General Meeting

November 17th

Templeton Community Center

601 Main St.

Templeton @ **7pm**

Everyone is invited

Dues are Due again,

Lisa King is excited about everyone paying their DUES at the November Meeting. Our DUES are very important to the club. It helps pay for insurance, the community center for our meeting, and the things that keep are club going month to month. Paying DUES make you a member of the Santa Lucia RockHounds and makes you eligible for club sponsored field trips, classes, and more.

The DUES are **\$20** for a single adult and **\$8** for each additional family member in the household (check or cash). The best way to pay your DUES is at the general meeting or you can mail it to:

Santa Lucia RockHounds
P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447.

Refreshments:

Thank You Everyone for contributing to the refreshment table. Our refreshment table is getting better each month. Thank You again, and keep up the good work. **Everyone** please bring refreshments to share at the upcoming meeting.

**Cliff's
Tailgate/Yard Sale
November 22th
8am-2pm**



**Why did the Rockhound have to buy a gallon of paint?
Because they were out of QUARTZ.**

Did you know?**A look at earth science odds and ends by a geology geek (Jim Mills)**

On a recent trip to Colorado for their spectacular Gem and Mineral Show in Denver, Beth and I took a very interesting side trip to Great Sand Dunes National Park in the southern part of the state. The primary attraction is, of course, the sand dunes – the tallest of which is approximately 750 feet above the floor of the valley (I say approximately because it can change rapidly in either direction, taller or lower, depending upon the severity of the weather and the direction of the wind). But it is a different geologic phenomenon that I want to talk about here.

There is a live river at the base of the sand dunes flowing across a flat sandy basin that looks for all the world like any water would immediately sink. This is the Medano River and it drains a significant portion of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains (much of which are also within the boundaries of the National Park), but it is not the volume of water coming downstream that makes the river flow across the top of the sand. Rather, it is an underlying salt-encrusted (meaning plenty of alkali as well as common table salt) which tends to cement the finer sediments into a hardpan of sorts that keeps the water in the Medano River from simply sinking into the desert. The geologic name of this kind of a salt-encrusted hardpan plain is a word borrowed from Middle Eastern languages – SABKHA. Here's the river at the base of the dunes:



Medano River

Did you know?

A look at earth science odds and ends by a geology geek (Jim Mills)

But, there is an even more amazing phenomenon that takes place along the Medano River – an event that is actually quite rare worldwide. In the late spring and summer, there are tremendous quantities of sand built up along the Medano River at the same time that spring and summer thawing in the high country delivers considerable amounts of water to the playa. The combination of “extra” sand and “plenty of water” makes for small dunes to form in the riverbed itself. Small here means *very* small – dunes that might grow to several inches tall. These underwater dunes act as small dams and hold back a quantity of water as they continue to grow. At some point, the dune grows too big and impounds enough water behind it to make the dune collapse from the weight of the water. The water then rushes forward, in the process destroying thousands and thousands of other small dune dams in the path. As the water continues to pile up it creates a small wave that travels downstream. The entire phenomenon is called a “SURGE FLOW.” After the wave passes, the situation quickly returns to normal and thousands of new small dune dams begin to build up in the river channel. It is an interesting sight to see a very, very flat river seemingly with waves or small rapids! The process moves huge amounts of sand downstream. Eventually, the sand ends up spread out on the Sabkha in the center of the playa and winds up being blown back to the sand dunes the following winter when prevailing winds come from the southwest. See the following photo courtesy of NASA:



Surge Flow



Surge Flow

Sand dunes, whether located in the desert, on the beach, or underwater in a riverbed, are fabulous places to watch geology in action. If you get into the neighborhood of Great Sand Dunes National Park – plan a visit!

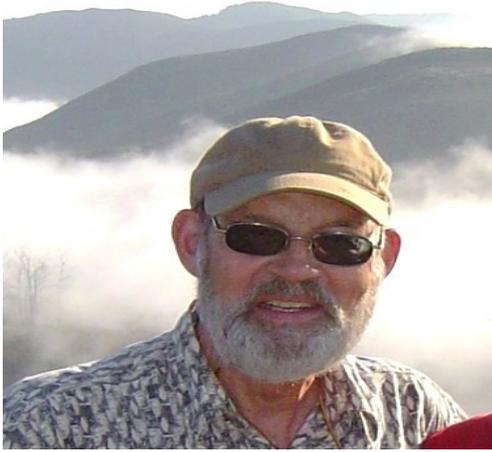
Just thought you would like to know ...

**Holiday
Party
December 15th**

Culinary School

Paso Robles, CA

See You There!



The article below
 Won
 Best Adult Advanced Article
 from CFMS
 &
 Honorable mention
 from AFMS
 in 2014

Originally published in the February 2013 Ore Cutts.
 By Wayne Mills

Presidential Pet Pebble

Photos and story by Wayne Mills, OMS punster

A news story on MSN recently noted that President Obama has a pet rock on his desk. Not any rock, but a PEToskey stone from Michigan. That story made me want to pick up my Petoskey stone, polish it, and peruse the literature pertaining to it. I knew that it was a species of hexagonal coral that was abundant in the ocean that covered what is now Michigan about 350 million years ago during the Devonian Period. The specific coral that makes the Petoskey stone is called *Hexagonaria percarinata*, and it only occurs in the Alpena Limestone.

Perhaps more pertinent, is the way the stone was named. Legend has it that a Frenchman of noble birth who was trapping for the John Jacob Astor Fur Company, married a princess of the Ottawa tribe who, in the spring of 1787, bore him a son by the banks of the Kalamazoo River. He named his son *Petosegay* which has several translations including “rising sun”, “sunbeams of promise”, and “rays of dawn”. When one sees a picture of the stone, one can see how apt the name is.

In 1965, then Governor (of Michigan) George Romney made the stone the state rock. Isn't it a pity the Petoskey isn't more prolific?



*Portrait of my patiently polished Petosky perched
 on Ordovician aged hex coral from
 Mazorka Canyon, Inyo Co., CA*



Detail of stone

An Unexpected Field Trip: The Midgley Museum in Enid, Oklahoma

by Barbara Bilyeu

Following up on Jim Mills' excellent presentation last month regarding the rewards of visiting non-collecting sites, here is a report on a delightful and unexpected place Gene and I were able to visit in the town of Enid, Oklahoma on our travels during the summer -- the Midgley Museum.

It was Sunday, so the museum was not open, but we had a grand time touring the outside!! The Museum was actually a private home at one time, constructed of rocks collected by the owners, the Midgley Family who came to the United States from England in the 1870's. As wheat and hay farmers, they found the rocks as they traveled to sell their harvests.

They later commissioned Texas stonemasons to construct a home from the rocks in their collection, which was eventually donated to the City of Enid as a museum. The museum is operated by the Northwest Oklahoma Masonic Lodges, and it is open during the week.

There is supposed to be a fluorescent collection on display inside as well as additional materials, but we didn't get to see any of that since the museum was closed. We were quite fascinated, however, by the outside of the building and the huge specimen of petrified wood from Woodward, Oklahoma on the front lawn! We could not take the rocks, but we could sure take pictures and appreciate the wonderful petrified wood, barite roses, fossils and other delights that form this amazing structure! If you get a chance to travel in Northern Oklahoma, put this on your list of sights to see!



**Dues
are
Due**

**Holiday
Party
December 15th**

Gold Pocket:

Always prospect in a known gold area, your chances are much higher to find gold.

Gold always has a source from where it starts, also known as **Lode Gold**. Lode gold is where the gold comes out of the earth's surface. Most lode gold is found in quartz outcropping. When the gold and the quartz are exposed to the surface, erosion starts to take place. The gold slowly separates from the outcropping, falling to the surface. Natural forces start to take over, moving the gold from the source. Now the gold is **Placer Gold**.

Placer gold is the key to finding lode gold. Gold is very malleable and will start to change shape further away from the source. It is so malleable, some gold nuggets look like they been folded a few times. One ounce of gold can be pounded so thin to cover a football field without tearing or breaking the gold. These clues help prospectors locate possible locations of lode gold areas.

Prospectors looking for lode gold are looking for coarse gold. This means no smooth edges. The more coarse the gold, the closer you are to the lode gold deposit. When you prospect the same area, you get a better understanding of the placer gold you find. Every prospector wants to find a coarse nugget or picker. Finding lode gold means possible retirement is very close by!

When you come across some coarse gold, start doing research on the area. There might already be a reason for the coarse gold, such as a glacier or earth movement. If there is no reason for the coarse gold, start doing your own research on the area. Learning the geology and fault zones are also keys.

If an old prospector came across coarse gold and did his research, he would start sampling for gold every 100 feet upstream, until his sampling would come up empty. Then he would back track to the last successful location, and then 20 feet upstream looking for the start of the gold in the stream.

He now knows the gold is coming from around here somewhere. This is where he starts to have big goose bumps. Now he starts sampling both sides of the stream. Once he finds the correct side of the stream, he samples his way up. He looks for geology features and keeps sampling, working his way closer and closer to the lode gold. Once he finds it, **EUREKA!**

Remember, this is a technique used since people have been looking for gold. This technique is for finding lode gold, but most rivers, streams, canyons, and desert washes have been worked by some prospector one time or another. Is there still lode gold out there? **YES!.....Mike Judy**

Field Trip:

November 19th - 22th

Lavic Siding

Mike & Denise Haludy

Denise Halopoff and Mike Judy are heading out to Lavic Siding near Barstow, Ca. Lavic Siding is full of jasper.

November 24th - 30th

Hauser Beds

We will continue our journey to the Hauser Beds near Bythe, Ca. This location is full of a variety of rock hounding locations (Thunder Egg beds, Chalcedony and Fire Agate).

Both locations are primitive camping and you have to bring water and food. No services for 30 miles in all directions. You will be off the grid at these places, making the trip even better. If you are interested please contact Denise Halopoff and Mike Judy at (805) 238-4469 -or- mrhaludy@gmail.com.

This is NOT a Santa Lucia RockHounds Club field trip, just people having fun and inviting you to have fun too.

Cliff's Tailgate/Yard Sale

November 22, 2014
8am-2pm

Coffee and Donuts in the morning

Setup time 7am

6384 Monterey Rd. Paso Robles

Questions?? Call **Cliff Brewen** [805-610-1579](tel:805-610-1579)

Please join us in the 9th Annual Rock Sale/Tailgate Yard Sale! If you are new to the club, come on by and check us out. If you have been making up some rock related things that you would like to sell just bring your truck and drop that tailgate! "But I don't have a truck!" Then bring a table. There will be plenty of club members to "talk rock". Some sale items that will be there: Lapidary Equipment, Rocks and More Rocks.

Last Months Speaker:

Our in-house self-proclaimed geology geek, Jim Mills, was our October meeting's speaker. He showed us a positive way of looking at a situation that most of us consider a negative. He spoke of visiting places where rock collecting is limited, or even *gasp!* Not Allowed!

What fun is it to be a rock collector that doesn't collect rocks? Well, he didn't say not to collect rocks. He spoke about being choosy with our rock collecting. We don't need a whole pick-up truck full of rocks from each place we visit.

I look back at my collecting habits from when I first started collecting through my amateur collecting years, when I didn't know schist from coprolite. I was completely content with my paltry collection. It was only after I started learning about rocks that I started bringing home every single one that I could get my hands on!

Not every adventure that I have gone on resulted in many, many buckets of rocks. Most recently was the fieldtrip led by Wayne Mills. He took us to where Pillow Lava was visible by Port San Luis. We visited Gopher Glen Apple Farm. We drove to the top of Prefumo Canyon Road, which has a fantastic view of the Seven Sisters Mountain Range.

Visiting State and National Parks is something that most of us enjoy. Rock collecting is usually strongly discouraged in these places. Museums are another place that might have really nice rocks on display, yet we can't take them home with us. Reading books about rocks (with pictures!) or visiting rock related sites on the internet are places we can go and collect with our mind.

Thank you, Jim, for showing us that although we may have returned home "empty handed", there are many facets of rock collecting, and sometimes "going rock collecting" is the journey.
-----Denise Halopoff

Quartzsite, AZ

*January
&
February*

Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Inc.

is a charitable group organized as a California non-profit public benefit corporation. The specific purpose of the group is to promote the study of mineralogy, including (but not limited to) the fields of lapidary, metal working, jewelry design & fabrication, geology and field trips for collecting and related history. We encourage learning and good citizenship in a congenial atmosphere. We respect both private and public property and we strive to protect natural resources.

Annual Dues are \$20 for the first adult and \$8 each for every additional member in the same household. Dues are payable between 1 September and 31 December, in person at the meetings or by mail. Members in good standing receive the Rockonteur by mail or email.

We are a member of the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)** and affiliated with the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)**. Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Inc. is also a member of the **American Lands Access Association (ALAA)**.

The Rockonteur is the official monthly newsletter of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. It is an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of SLR and of interest to its members. Circulation is approximately 90 copies per issue.

Editor: Denise Halopoff

3dancindoxies@sbcglobal.net
(805) 238-4469

Publisher: James King

8745 Martinez Drive
San Miguel, CA 93451
SLRockhounds@gmail.com
(805) 975-2740 (Please leave message)

Member submissions are encouraged and may be made by email or snail mail. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions and advertising that, in our opinion, do not reflect the standards of this newsletter, or are inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Submissions may be edited for content, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length without consent. *Rockonteur* is not a creative writing outlet, however, all submissions that may be of interest to its readers and reflect the standards of the newsletter, will be considered for publication at the discretion of the editor or publisher.

Deadline: All submissions are due by midnight of the last day of the month but early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged. The publisher reserves the right to accept, reject or hold-over late submissions.

Santa Lucia Rockhounds Website: www.slrockhounds.org

Webmaster - Vince Pelerin, (831) 594-1381 webmaster@slrockhounds.org

Officers:

President, Michael Judy

(805) 238-4469 3dancindoxies@sbcglobal.net

VP Programs, Kim Noyes

(805) 610-0603 kimnoyes@gmail.com

VP Education, John McCabe

(805) 464-0528 mccabewest@aol.com

VP Communications, Mary Caparone

(805) 610-5281 mary@caparone.com

Secretary, Rachel Denny

(805) 472-9036 stormdragon71@netscape.net

Treasurer, Laurie Wylie

(805) 466-7864 drtom@fix.net

Sr. Director, Ralph Lawless

(805) 423-8965 ravenstone5@yahoo.com

Jr. Director, David Nelson

(805) 423-0188 nelsonda24@gmail.com

Past President, Barbara Bilyeu

(805) 434-2708 bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com

Directors:

CFMS Director, Gene Bilyeu

(805) 434-2708 gbilyeu@yahoo.com

CFMS Alternate, Jim Mills

(805) 237-0303 Jim@millsgeological.com

Drawings, Michael Judy

(805) 238-4469 3dancindoxies@sbcglobal.net

Field Trips, Vacant

Membership, Lisa King

(805) 467-0062 anoldcowhand@gmail.com

Merchandise, David Nelson

(805) 423-0188 nelsonda24@gmail.com

Museum & Library, Barbara Bilyeu

(805) 434-2708 bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com

Hospitality, Denise Halopoff

(805) 238-4469 3dancindoxies@sbcglobal.net

History, Mike Doherty

(805) 466-4061 mndoherty@tcsn.net

Pioneer Museum Liaison, Brett Weathersbee

(805) 550-2753

Rock & Gem Show, Kim Noyes

(805) 610-0603 kimnoyes@gmail.com

Silent Auction, Pete Duckworth

(805) 467-3413 jasperjunkie@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, Denise Halopoff

(805) 238-4469 3dancindoxies@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Publisher, James King,

(805) 975-2740 SLRockhounds@gmail.com

Dues are Due

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CFMS Society Shows**November 8 - 9: ANAHEIM, CA**

American Opal Society, Garden Grove
 Hours: Sat 9 - 6; Sun 9 - 5
 Website: www.opalsociety.org

November 8 - 9: SACRAMENTO, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Website: sacgemshow.com

November 8 - 9: YUBA CITY, CA

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Website: www.sutterbuttes.net

November 14 - 16: EUREKA, CA

Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society
 Hours: Fri 9 - 6, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Diana Reed, (707) 839-2079

November 15 - 16: APPLE VALLEY, CA

Valley Gem Gem & Mineral Club
 Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
 Website: www.vvgmc.org

November 22 - 23: SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Website: www.scmgs.org

December 12 - 14: RIALTO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3
 Website: OBMSrocks.yolasite.com

**West Coast
 Gem & Mineral Show
 November 7-8-9
 Santa Ana, CA**

**Gem
 Faire
 November 29-30, Dec. 1
 Monterey, CA**

**Gem
 Faire
 December 5-6-7
 Santa Barbara, CA**



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Ruby Dragon

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 805-772-1100

www.rubydragon.info
rubydragonrocks@aol.com

We are a rock shop and metaphysical center in downtown Morro Bay. We offer a full line of rocks, crystals, and metaphysical items such as pendulums, smudge, essential oils, statues, incense, jewelry and much more. We also have art by local artists.

We offer a wide array of classes on topics such as alternative health, shamanism, angelic healing, goddess workshops, crystals, tarot, dreams, astrology and others.

Thank You
Wellness Kitchen
for Hosting our
Board Meetings



Lunches to Go!

1255 Las Tablas Rd ste 102
Templeton CA 93465
(Next door to Heritage Oaks Bank)










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Greek Salad - \$8.00
Romaine, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Black olives

Fiesta Taco Salad - \$8.00
Black Beans, jicama, tomato, radish, corn, green onion, jalapeno cilantro, red pepper, pumpkin seeds on romaine & tortilla chips
(All salads add Chicken +\$2.00)

Wraps - \$10.00

Grilled Veggie & Hummus
Seasonal vegetables & homemade hummus

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Chicken, celery, Apple, scallions, herbs, homemade eggless Mayo, Romain lettuce & Roasted red peppers
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The Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee consisted of three club members: **Barbara Bilyue, Lisa King, and Rachel Miller.** They've worked very hard over the last month to find interested candidates for the Santa Lucia RockHounds Club Board.

The Nominees will be voted in at the next general meeting in November. If your name is not here, you still can nominate yourself before or at the club meeting in November.

The nominees for officers for 2015 are:

President - Michael Judy
V.P. of Programs - Beverly Brown
V.P. of Education - John McCabe
V.P. of Communications - Brett Weathersby
Treasurer - Rachel Miller
Secretary - Rachael Denny
Senior Director - David Nelson
Junior Director - James King

October 13th 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

- * The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M. Present were Mike Judy, Kim Noyes, Mary Caparone, Vince Pellerin, Laurie and Tom Wylie, David Nelson, Barbara and Gene Bilyeu, Lisa King, Mike Doherty, Denise Halopoff, Aaron Miller, Rachel Miller and Don Huntington.
- * Barbara Bilyeu was added to last months minutes as a club participant in the Caledonia Days Festival. Mary Caparone moved to approve the amended minutes of last month's meetings and David Nelson seconded the motion.
- * Mike Judy said that all correspondence received was bills. Mike will choose a different junior rockhound at each meeting to act as sunshine representative. Mike nominated Barbara Bilyeu as the president's representative to the nominating committee. Lisa King volunteered to be the at large representative. Because we are on course to change the show venue and this entails a larger expenditure, the general membership will be required to vote on the change.
- * Laurie Wylie presented the Treasurer's Report. Last month, the Club auction revenue was \$769 and plant sales totaled \$53. This revenue was offset by food and wood expense of \$599.87 and tip expense of \$100. The net profit was \$122.13.
- * Jim Mills will speak about petrified wood in October and John McCabe will speak in November.
- * Mary Caparone has information about our show being published monthly in the paso Robles magazine. She will start handing out cards soon. Vince Pellerin will construct a web page about our upcoming show.
- * John McCabe will attempt to get more scholarship participation from high schools. He will be giving a talk about minerals this Friday at Liberty High School.
- * Gene and Barbara Bilyeu will attend the CFMS meeting at Visalia in November and report to the board.
- * Member Jack Raven has arranged use of the "Red Dragon" classroom in Morro Bay to teach lapidary classes. Mr. Santos has volunteered to teach some classes on geology. The first class will be in February.
- * Lisa King reported that the club has approximately 150 members. Vince Pellerin requested a current list so that he can update our website. Dues are currently payable.
- * Laurie Wylie has paid the insurance bill.
- * Barbara Bilyeu reported that the club library has one new book on trilobites.
- * Mike Doherty said that the role of historian may be outdated now that the newsletter is in the digital era.
- * David Nelson found a fluorescent kit for kids that retails for \$11 and a little book called "Dig Into Rocks". The club may purchase some of these for our upcoming show.
- * Pete Duckworth was recognized for his outstanding work as auctioneer at the cub picnic.
- * Mike Judy solicited donations for the drawing.
- * Denise Halopoff was recognized for her continued exemplary work as hospitality chair.
- * Vince Pellerin reported that the website has the latest newsletter posted. He received one random inquiry regarding the location of fossilized crabs in Carmel Valley. Aaron Miller provided the exact location to be passed on to the inquirer.
- * Mike Judy restated that the show will occur on May 2nd and 3rd. We should have a contract in a couple months. The fair will require a \$500 deposit. Richard Wade is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Mike has divided the showroom into 30 12ft. by 12ft. spaces with room for more. After some insight given by Aaron Miller, frequent show participant, the board decided to charge \$250 per space after a motion by John McCabe and a second by Kim Noyes. The fair will provide 40 tables and 320 chairs for the venue. We will likely have to rent more tables. Aaron will be going to Morrocco in a couple of weeks and showed the board examples of geodes he can get from Morrocco. The board decided to purchase one 20 kilo bag each of large and small geodes at \$1.50 per kilo.
- * The Holiday party dinner will be the same price as last year at \$10 per person on the 3rd Monday in December. Kim motioned to have the dinner and Mary Caparone provided a second. The motion passed.
- * Kim Noyes inherited show records from Dale Conrad as he has moved to the Phillipines. Mike Judy will review the records and keep whatever is of value to the club.

Minutes taken by Vince Pellerin for Rachael Denny.

Please support our Sponsors

**SANTA LUCIA ROCKHOUNDS
P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, California 93447**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED