


SANTA LUCIA ROCKHOUNDS ROCKONTEUR

Volume 25, Issue 6

August 2015

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WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Words from the President:

At our last general meeting, **Mike Shipley** from the **SLO Gem & Mineral Club** did a very informative presentation on the geology of the central coast. He focused a lot on plate tectonics and subduction, which I personally find very interesting and hope everyone else did, too! After the presentation, we celebrated our Santa Lucia RockHound Club's 24th Birthday. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the Club's birthday cake. Thank you **Ralph Lawless** and **Mary Caparone** for doing the cake cutting and serving honors. That was a lot of work, and we really appreciated you doing it!

Gene Bilyeu announced that the Club's newsletter, **The Rockonteur**, was submitted to the CFMS for competition. He presented awards to **Barbara Bilyeu**, **Nancy Bottely**, **Lisa King**, **Jim Mills**, and **Galen Moyer** for articles that were submitted in the competition. Great work! **James King** took the 1st place award for California for Small Bulletin Editor, and is now qualified for the AFMS contest. Congratulations, James!

Also at the last General Meeting we announced that **Richard Wade** will do a presentation at our October General Meeting. Of the three different presentations he has - astronomy, dinosaurs, and volcanos - **astronomy** won the Club vote. I look forward to seeing you there for this dramatic presentation.

Our Club is continuing to grow, with

new members joining "old" members looking to further their interest in all aspects of rockhounding. The Club is looking for **mentors** for both new and "old" members. I know that RockHounds love showing off their rockhounding finds and what they do with them. Mentoring others passes



hands-on knowledge that can't always be found in books. And please take the time to answer a question that may be asked of you, and help share your knowledge.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **August 22th**, the Club's **Annual Lapidary Picnic** at **Galen Moyer's** house in Templeton. If you are looking to see what lapidary equipment you might need, then you definitely need to come to this event. There will be different presentations on many types of lapidary equipment, and in some cases a little hands-on help. **David Nelson** will once again be manning the bbq, grilling up hot dogs for all. The Club will provide the hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, punch, and plates. Please

bring a side dish or dessert to share with all, your own drinks if you don't want punch, and a chair for yourself. This is a fun event with good food, a great way to meet other Club Members, and you may even learn a thing or two! "A Good Time Will Be Had By All!"

The Club's **Facebook Page** is a great place to add pictures of your new finds. Take a look and add some of your rockin' comments or let others know if you are planning an adventure.

And while you're at it, take a look at our **Web Page**, too. **Vince Pellerin** has created a **Rock Gallery** for the Club. There are 5 rock collections in the gallery now, and I know more are on the way. This is a must see!

If you have been running around in the dark because your **UV light** needs repair, **David Nelson** is the person you want to see. He has experience in repairing UV lights. Contact him *now* for your UV light repair or information about a future UV light purchase, so you can get back to looking for fluorescent minerals. And don't miss **David's Fluorescent Mineral Display** at the **Orcutt Mineral Society's Rainbow of Gems Show** at Nipomo High School, August 7-9.

~~~ Mike Judy

## REFRESHMENTS

LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH **B THROUGH D** PLEASE BRING REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE AT THE UPCOMING MEETING.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**  
10 AUGUST 2015

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**  
17 AUGUST 2015



## Resignation

Board of Officers & Directors and Members,  
Santa Lucia Rockhounds

5 July 2015

Dear Rockhounds,

Having accepted employment with an “out-of-town” firm, I will now be living away from this area during the workweek and I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties as a Director of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. I believe that it would be in the club’s best interest to appoint, or elect a replacement to serve out my term(s) for me.

Also, as I explained when I took on the job of publishing the newsletter, a change in my employment status could mean that I would no longer be able to continue. Now, the demands of setting up housekeeping and living away from home, a 4 ½ hour (one way) commute and learning a new job, will occupy a great deal of my time and energy. I will do my best to produce the monthly newsletter through August 2015 or until a replacement can be found, whichever comes first. I will be happy to supply my MS Publisher template and to coach a replacement editor/publisher for a few months by email.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed and those that have enjoyed this newsletter. I have enjoyed serving the Santa Lucia Rockhounds and I thank you for entrusting me with these duties, but life happens.

Very truly yours,  
James P. King, Jr. Director

*Editor’s note - This letter was presented to the Board of Directors at their July meeting. In compliance with our by-laws, it is being published here in order that a special election may be held to fill the now vacant seat on the board.*

**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.

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**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.

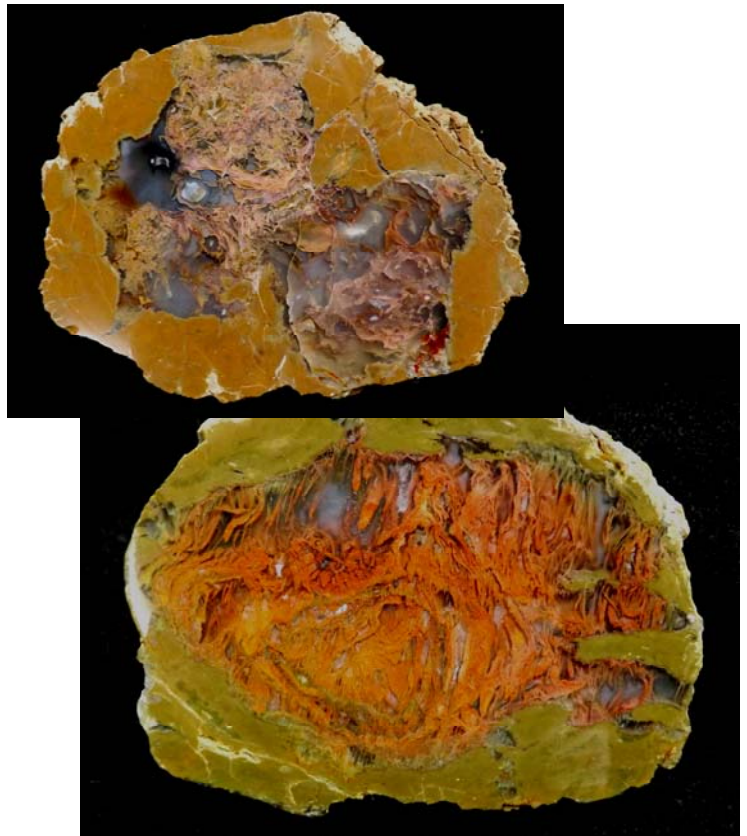
**Santa Lucia Rockhounds Website:** [www.slrockhounds.org](http://www.slrockhounds.org)  
**Webmaster** - Vince Pelerin, (831) 594-1381 [webmaster@slrockhounds.org](mailto:webmaster@slrockhounds.org)

### 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)**.



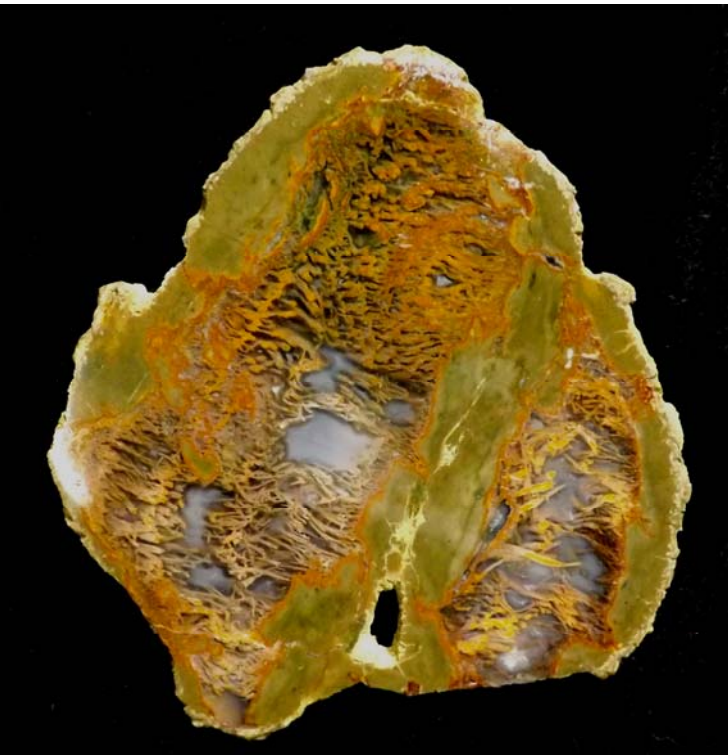
## Thundereggs, Part 2

By Barbara Bilyeu

The examples from the July newsletter on Richardson Ranch thundereggs all had what is called "waterline" or "Uruguay banding" formations in the center, in which layers of agate and opal are deposited horizontally, parallel to the surface of the earth. This is often a very helpful way to determine where up and down are in a thunderegg so you can display it correctly. Other neat features that can fill thundereggs include moss and plume, which are found in other thunderegg beds on the Richardson Ranch. Both moss and plume are formations that are believed to form inside the thunderegg cavity before it is filled with agate. Again, these formations can inspire us as we imagine scenes of ocean shores, flower bouquets, moss-draped bayous and other images! Many other thunderegg deposits exhibit similar formations, as you will see in coming newsletters. These photos are all from Richardson Ranch beds, including two highly-prized Priday Plume specimens.



See page 2 for more photos of Barbara's moss and plume thundereggs.



## Did you know?

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

During a recent trip to the south of France I was standing at a trailhead in the Provence region and looked down at my feet (the geology geek spends a lot of time looking at the ground and rocks underfoot...) and saw a rather interesting looking stone (see photo).

I picked it up and immediately recognized it as a



specimen of Bauxite, the primary ore from which we produce aluminum. In fact, it should not have come as much of a surprise because I was only about 20 kilometers from the town of Baux, France, the place after which the ore was originally named by the French chemist Henri Sainte-Claire Deville in the year 1861. Bauxite has a very distinctive look to it with rather small spherical structures called pisoliths. Bauxite can be confused with other stones which contain spherical features (examples from our own American Southwest might include oolite and birds-eye rhyolite, or even Morgan Hill jasper) but most of the look-alikes are silicates and therefore are much harder than Bauxite (and generally more colorful as well).

You might think that Bauxite is a mineral but that would be an error. It is a rock, not a mineral. Reviewing the difference between these two classifications of stones might be useful here. Minerals

are composed exclusively of individual molecules that are absolutely identical to every other molecule in the stone. For example, absolutely every molecule in calcite contains the identical number of calcium, carbon, and oxygen atoms, all held together by strong chemical bonds and all having the same chemical formula. Rocks on the other hand are combinations of different minerals all held together by weak chemical bonds. The ratios of the various minerals can vary

widely in rocks bearing the same name but still share a common name. And that, if you have not already guessed, is the nature of Bauxite. It is a mixture of three aluminum hydroxide minerals (Gibbsite, Boehmite, and Diaspore) often held together by molecules of the mineral Limonite, Goethite, Hematite or Kaolin clay. So, the percentages of Gibbsite, Boehmite and Diaspore are different in various Bauxite ore deposits in the world.

The fact that these small pisoliths of aluminum hydroxides are often held together by iron oxides or clay gives a second useful identification clue: bauxite is a very soft and often friable

rock which would not be capable of taking a polish such as the silicates mentioned above as possible look-alikes. Most Bauxite ore deposits occur in tropical or semi-tropical climates and are mined by open pit methods. The ores are concentrated on site (i.e. they separate the aluminum minerals from the iron minerals) and are then shipped to a location where electricity is abundant and relatively cheap. There the metallic aluminum is produced by electrolysis. The worldwide demand for metallic aluminum is increasing rapidly as formerly "Third World" countries become industrialized. However, the amount of Bauxite reserves known worldwide is really substantial and they are projected to last for many centuries at current usage rates. Of course, they can last even longer if everyone recycles their aluminum cans and scrap metal!

Just thought you would like to know...

## Business Meeting Minutes, 13 July 2015

The meeting opened at 7:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mike Judy, Beverly Brown, Brett Weathersbee, Rachael Denny, Rachel Miller, David Nelson, Barbara Bilyeu, Lisa King, Mike Doherty, Denise Halopoff, Kim Noyes, and Dorin Strane.

Brett Weathersbee moved to approve the minutes of last month's Board and general meetings. David Nelson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by the Board. In correspondence, the Club received an invitation to participate in Digging Production's Gem and Mineral Show in Hanford on September 12th, and 13th, a letter from Atascadero High School thanking John McCabe for his participation in their Scholarship Night, and a package containing awards for contributors to our newsletter, which will be presented by Barbara Bilyeu at this month's general meeting.

Mike Judy announced that, owing to work obligations, James King will be resigning his positions as Junior Director, and as editor and publisher of the Club's newsletter. James is willing to help train anyone who wants to take over the newsletter. Mike also thanked David Nelson for running last month's general meeting, Bob Baker for picking up the key, and Brett Weathersbee and Christine Vitarisi for handling the drawing, and Hospitality.

Rachel Miller presented the Treasurer's Report. At the last general meeting, the Club made \$13 from the silent auction, \$53 from the drawing, and \$76 in membership fees. There is general agreement that the Club should invest some money in a CD, but it has been decided to postpone a decision until the tax situation has been discussed and resolved.

The featured speaker at this month's general meeting will be Mike Shipley, of the San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club, who will give a presentation on local geology, Mike Judy will be the featured speaker in August, and Richard Wade will give a presentation in October.

At the general meeting, Brett Weathersbee will announce the Club's Facebook page to the membership. If anyone has a Way Cool black light in need of repair, David Nelson can fix it.

Barbara Bilyeu reported that the 2016 CFMS show will take place in Placerville, in conjunction with the International Gold Panning Competition, the 2017 show will take place in Ventura, and will be a combined CFMS and AFMS show. There are tentative plans for Galen Moyer to host a lapidary demonstration in August, and extra barbecue cooks are welcome for the Club's picnic in September.

Lisa King announced that the Club presently has 127 paid members, and that she will need someone to fill in for her at this month's general meeting. Brett Weathersbee and Christine Vitarisi are able to help. The membership applications of Mary Beattie and Sam and Cheyenne Allen, and of Bill Bingaman, were presented, and approved by the Board.

David Nelson brought samples of the new T-shirt colors that were chosen at last month's Board meeting. Club T-shirts can now be ordered in gray, sand, and pistacio, as well as the original sapphire blue. Since July is the Club's birthday, there will be a cake at the general meeting, but Galen Moyer will not be able to present the Founder's Award until August.

It has been suggested that the Club's next show be held on the second weekend in May, but the date has not yet been firmly set. The Orcutt show will take place on August 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully yours,  
Rachael Denny, Secretary.

## General Meeting Minutes, 20 July 2015

The meeting opened at 7:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Kerrigan Jensen lead the singing of "Happy Birthday" to those Rockhounds born during the month of July. As this month marks the Club's 24th anniversary, we sang "Happy Birthday" to all the members present, as well. Guests were introduced, and Dorin Strane did the badge check.

John McCabe introduced Rachel Donati, the recipient of the Club's \$1,000 scholarship for this year. Miss Donati will be studying engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, and she has a keen interest in hydrology, and aquifer protection. The Founder's Award will be presented at next month's general meeting.

Mike Judy reminded everyone that the Club's annual picnic is scheduled for September 20th at the Templeton Park. The Club will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, punch and water. Salads, side dishes, and desserts will be potluck. There will be an auction, metal detecting, and games for the kids.

There will be a lapidary demonstration at the home of Galen Moyer in August, (exact date to be announced). Again, the Club will supply hot dogs, punch, and water. The Club's annual holiday party will take place in December, as usual.

Bob Baker announced that there will be a field trip to San Luis Obispo on August 1st to purchase Brazilian agate. Anyone who wants more information should contact Bob. The Orcutt club's show will take place on August 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Nipomo High School.

Gene Bilyeu announced that the Club's newsletter, the Rockonteur, was submitted to the CFMS for competition, and that Galen Moyer, Barbara Bilyeu, Jim Mills, Lisa King, and Nancy Bottely have all won awards for articles that they submitted. James King won 1st Place for Small Bulletin Editor, and is qualified for the AFMS contest. It appears, however, that James will only be editing and publishing our newsletter for one more month. Owing to the demands of a new job, he will be obliged to resign from the newsletter, and from his position as Junior Director, as well. The vacancy on the Board will be published in the August newsletter, and a special election will be held at the next general meeting. Anyone who wants to serve as Junior Director, or to edit or publish the newsletter, should contact Denise Halopoff or Mike Judy. James will assist anyone who wants to take over the newsletter.

The Board has voted to engage Richard Wade as a guest speaker for the October general meeting. Mr. Wade has three different presentations to choose from, namely Volcanoes, Astronomy, and Dinosaurs. Those present were asked to vote on which presentation he should give in October, and Astronomy emerged as the clear winner. At present, volunteers are needed for the Show Committee. Anyone who is interested should contact Mike Judy or Denise Halopoff.

David Nelson announced that Club T-shirts are now available in four different colors-sand, charcoal, and pistachio, in addition to the original sapphire blue. The Show and Tell table featured a selection of Arkansas quartz crystals belonging to Denise Halopoff, arrowheads and fossils belonging to Ron Resconi, and biconoids and fossils belonging to Jason Martinez.

The featured speaker for the evening was Mike Shipsey, of the San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral club, who gave a talk on plate tectonics, and the geology of California. At 8:25 P.M. the meeting adjourned for refreshments, (including the club's birthday cake), the drawing, and the silent auction, dispersing between 8:45 and 9:00 P.M.

Wishing us all a happy birthday, I am respectfully yours,  
Rachael Denny, Secretary.

## Founders Award

### Who Will It Be?

When our club first formed in 1991, charter members Bob and Jayne Mount wanted to establish a means by which members who went above-and-beyond for the club and for the hobby could be recognized. They established the Founders Award and chose Jeanne Lehr as the first recipient. Jeanne Lehr spearheaded the creation of our club logo and led our first beading classes, among other contributions to our young club. In 1992 Jeanne had the honor of recognizing Doug Purdom (who personally sold literally hundreds of drawing tickets for our shows, by the way!), and Doug then had the honor of recognizing the next person, and so on and so on. There have been many wonderful people to choose from over the years and a list of recipients follows. This year it is last year's winner Galen Moyer's job to pick the next Founders Award winner. This is usually done in July at our Birthday Meeting, but Galen will be giving the award out at our upcoming August meeting instead. Be sure to come and see who will be our next honoree! Could it be you??!

- 1991 Jeanne Lehr
- 1992 Doug Purdom
- 1993 Barbara Burkle (Bilyeu)
- 1994 Ken Pharris
- 1995 Paula Sartain
- 1996 Allen Hodges
- 1997 Warren, Sharline and David Nelson
- 1998 Sherm and Bea Griselle
- 1999 Pete Duckworth
- 2000 Rosemary Netto
- 2001 Kathryn Harris (Guerin)
- 2002 Mary Caparone
- 2003 Frank Imhoof
- 2004 John McCabe
- 2005 Joyce Baird
- 2006 Estella McElwain
- 2007 Gene Bilyeu
- 2009 Mike and Margaret Doherty
- 2010 Cliff Brewen
- 2011 Ralph Lawless
- 2012 Richard Smithen
- 2013 David Nelson
- 2014 Galen Moyer
- 2015 ???

## ROCKHOUND FRIENDS



### The Wellness Kitchen

1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton (805) 434-1800

[Nancy@theWKRC.org](mailto:Nancy@theWKRC.org)

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## UCLA Meteorite Gallery

The UCLA Collection of Meteorites is the largest on the West Coast and contains over 2500 samples from about 1500 different meteorites. It is the fifth largest collection of meteorites in the world. We are located in room 3697 of the Geology Building. The Gallery is open to the public weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm and on Sundays from 1 to 4 pm when it is staffed with volunteer docents. Admission is always free. The exhibits will gradually expand as funds and additional samples are obtained.

[meteorites.ucla.edu](http://meteorites.ucla.edu)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 2015

#### 10) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

#### 17) SLR General Meeting, 7 pm,

Location: Templeton Community Center, 601 S. Main Street, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

### SEPTEMBER 2015

#### 14) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

#### 20) SLR Annual Picnic,

Location: Templeton Park  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

### OCTOBER 2015

#### 12) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

#### 19) SLR General Meeting, 7 pm,

Location: Templeton Community Center, 601 S. Main Street, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

### NOVEMBER 2015

#### 9) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

#### 16) SLR General Meeting, 7 pm,

Location: Templeton Community Center, 601 S. Main Street, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

### DECEMBER 2015

#### 14) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

#### 21) SLR Christmas Party,

Location: TBD  
Contact: Michael Judy (805) 238-4469, [mrhaludy@gmail.com](mailto:mrhaludy@gmail.com)

### JANUARY 2016

#### 11) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: TBD

#### 18) SLR General Meeting, 7 pm,

Location: Templeton Community Center, 601 S. Main Street, Templeton  
Contact: TBD

### FEBRUARY 2016

#### 8) SLR Board Meeting, 7 pm

Location: Wellness Kitchen, 1255 Las Tablas Rd Ste 102, Templeton  
Contact: TBD

#### 15) SLR General Meeting, 7 pm,

Location: Templeton Community Center, 601 S. Main Street, Templeton  
Contact: TBD

## 2015 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President, Michael Judy**  
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**Secretary, Rachael Denny**  
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**Treasurer, Rachel Miller**  
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**Sr. Director, David Nelson**  
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**Jr. Director, James King**  
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**Past President, Barbara Bilyeu**  
(805) 434-2708 [bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com)

## 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**CFMS Director, Gene Bilyeu**  
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**Drawings, Michael Judy**  
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**Membership, Lisa King**  
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**Hospitality, Denise Halopoff**  
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**History, Mike Doherty**  
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**Rock & Gem Show, Michael Judy**  
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and **Barbara Bilyeu**  
(805) 434-2708 [bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com)

**Silent Auction, Pete Duckworth**  
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**Newsletter Editor - Publisher, James King**  
(805) 975-2740 [SLRockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:SLRockhounds@gmail.com)

## Meetings

**Board meetings** - 2nd Monday of the month at *The Wellness Kitchen*, 1255 Las Tablas Rd. Ste. 102, Templeton at 7 p.m.

**General meetings** - 3rd Monday of every month except September and December at the *Templeton Community Center*, 601 Main St. Templeton at 7 p.m..



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