



ROCKONTEUR

Volume 25, Issue 12

December 2015

Words from the President:

The **Officers Installation Dinner** and Winter Solstice Celebration is only days away, on Monday the 14th. The expected crowd will be around 40 members, although at this time we still can reserve a spot for **You!** This dinner has always been fun and exciting for both kids and adults. We plan on having our "Steal a Gift Exchange" again, which can get pretty wild. I look forward to seeing you there.

When I think or talk about the Santa Lucia RockHounds, the first thing that comes to mind is the Junior RockHounds. They have their own programs and classes. They also get geology badges for their work - I want to be a Junior RockHound! **John McCabe** has been doing a wonderful job. I have spoken with parents of some of the Juniors, and they have all been so complimentary to John and all the work he does. The Junior RockHounds are flourishing, and that in turn makes our club flourish. John has been getting assistance from **Rachel Miller**, which comes in handy with all those Juniors! The Club thanks you **John McCabe** and **Rachel Miller**.

I would like to thank all the **Board Members** for a very great year. We all worked together to better a great Club and it's future. In January, the Board Meeting will be moving to the Templeton Community Center and will start at 6:00, one hour before the General Meeting. This will be a three month trial run to see how well it works out. Our hope is that more members will try to come early and participate in the Board Meeting. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there!

Drew Arnold's presentations have always been exciting. The one last year made me want to run out and try to find Jade at the beach right then and there! One year later, he did it again, giving everyone new hope in finding some Jade. The expected El Nino might uncover some new Jade along the coast for us to find. Good luck to everyone Jade hunting...just be safe!

With 2016 expecting El Nino storms or above normal weather, this might be an exceptional season for rock hounding. The beaches may be getting more goodies coming on shore. Rivers and streams should get some water moving the sediment to uncover more exciting finds. I hope everyone can get their hiking shoes on in the next few months, and get out to their favorite rockhounding areas.

I wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season, and look forward to many more adventures in 2016!~~~*Mike Judy*~~~

**No Board Meeting
For
December**

**No General Meeting
For
December**

**Officer's Installation & Winter Solstice
Dinner**

December 14, 2015 6:30 PM

@ Paso Robles Culinary School

\$15.00 Adult & \$10.00 Under 12 years old

Dues are Due:

To continue receiving the Rockonteur News, you must be current with your Yearly Dues. So here's the good news: You can mail your dues to Santa Lucia RockHounds. Then you will be current on your dues, won't miss any news, and can go on with your rockhounding in your new Holiday shoes! (Hey...at least it rhymes!)~~~~DH~~~~

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

Junior Rockhounds:

At the November meeting, Junior Rockhounds continued to work on their astronomy badge. A special guest attended the meeting and gave each youngster a chunk of meteorite to add to their collections. Junior Rockhounds are invited to attend the December club party. They will also be joining the adults for the Club's special January Show & Tell Meeting. Junior Rockhounds are encouraged to bring their favorite rock and story and participate!~~~~TC~~~~

Upcoming January Meeting:

It's almost time for the Club's annual Show & Tell Meeting. Get your favorite, most interesting rock specimen and story ready. You will have three minutes to wow the crowd! After all the presentations have been made, Club members will vote for their favorites. Prizes will be awarded for both the best specimen and the most entertaining story. This should be a night to remember!~~~~TC~~~~

Past Meeting Speaker:

Drew Arnold

Jade Hunter
&
Jade Artist



Last year photo:

It was toss-up between what engrossed the crowd at November's club meeting more - Drew Arnold's stimulating talk on his jade diving adventures or the table next to him piled high with gleaming, deep green rocks and stones of all shapes and sizes. Members all felt his excitement at the prospect of a great jade hunting season this winter in Big Sur, thanks to the impending El Nino weather forecast. With any luck, ocean currents driven by these storms will unearth new specimens of jade for Rockhounds to discover! To see Drew's photos of his jade hunting adventures and his finished products check out his website at: www.oceansartjade.com.~~~~TC~~~~

What did the caveman use in the bathtub???

answer: Soapstone

Meteorite falls to earth in Creston in October

Paso Robles Daily News

Posted: [7:04 am, December 7, 2015](#) by [Reporter Jackie Iddings](#)

—A meteorite crashed and exploded a few miles from Creston in October. It was one of two meteorite events the night of Oct. 23 that was witnessed throughout California. Both events were tracked by a number of meteorite-watch sites and the Creston event, assigned the event number 2635-2015 by the [American Meteor Society](#). The event drew the attention of international meteorite hunter Robert Ward.

The American Meteor Society received over 300 reports of two fireballs over the far western USA on Friday, Oct. 23. Observers from as far as Tucson, Ariz., southwestern Utah and from Sacramento to San Diego reported seeing a bright light in the sky. Reports from local residents were also filed with the American Meteor Society.

Ward, who lives in Prescott, Arizona, saw the reports of a significant meteorite fireball over California and using data from meteorite tracking sites, narrowed the event to specific coordinates near Creston. In an interview, Ward stated that he arrived at the impact point on Oct. 27 and recovered enough fragments to reassemble the majority of the stone. The stone had hit a metal fence post and shattered. Other meteorite hunters claim to have retrieved a number of fragments, which have already been sliced and are being offered for sale. Ward stated his specimens were submitted to the Center for Meteorite Studies at Arizona State University to be authenticated.

The Creston meteorite official name is "Creston," and it was classified as a L6 Ordinary Chondrite. Chondrites consist of small particles condensed and crystallized from hot solar nebula to form small spheres called chondrules. Chondrites are primordial matter that has been unchanged for 4.5 billion years. According to Vince Pellerin from the [Santa Lucia Rockhounds](#) headquartered in Paso Robles, 95 percent of meteorites are Chondrite.

Most meteorite hunters follow fireball sightings to retrieve fragments for their private collections and to sell or trade. The [International Meteorite Collectors Association](#) has a code of ethics that collectors are expected to follow. Some meteorite fragments sell for thousands of dollars.

Pellerin states collecting meteorites and rocks often go hand-in-hand. "There is nothing wrong with collecting meteorites as long as it is done with the permission of property owners," said Pellerin. "There are many meteorite dealers." Pellerin said one of the best places to purchase meteorites is at Quartzite, Arizona during the annual rock and gem sales in February. "You can find meteorites from all over the world."

Once the coordinates (35°34'13"N, 120°28'21"W) were obtained from the AMS website and entered into Google Earth, the impact site is fairly easy to locate. A short drive north along Highway 41, a few miles past Camp 8 Road goes right to the sparsely populated location. No fragments were found during a reporting investigation over the weekend, but there was one bent t-post on the fence line along the road. Could this be the post that shattered the meteorite?



Thundereggs: by Barbara Bilyeu

Still heading east, we will now enter into Idaho for some very unusual thundereggs, the first of which is found in the wild and treacherous Bruneau Canyon, south of Bruneau, Idaho. This is the location for the world-famous lapidary material known as Bruneau jasper. Bruneau jasper contains fascinating "eggs", "bubbles" and "orbs" mostly in brown tones, and specimens with full patterns command high prices. And, yes, these magnificent specimens are the insides of thundereggs! This area is no longer producing since being declared a Wilderness Area in 2012 and the claim owners had to give up their claims. It was difficult to get to back in the days when it was accessible. Then most of the outside of the thunderegg was cobbled off by the miners, leaving only the jasper interior. Full specimens containing the outside matrix are pretty rare. You can view an interview with historic miners Gene Anthus and Gerald Scarrow describing their mining days on youtube.com titled "Bruneau Jasper Miners".

Further north, outside of Eagle, Idaho, is another world-famous jasper location, this one called Willow Creek Jasper. Yes, another example of thunderegg interiors, but this is on the extreme side. The claim is owned by a man named Larry Ridley, who mines these enormous thundereggs with the help of seriously-heavy equipment. Rather than cutting the thundereggs open with a saw, Larry uses a drill, and there is a wonderful photograph of him standing on top of one of these monsters with his drill. You can see the photograph online by doing a search for "Willow Creek jasper Larry Ridley". You can also see an interview with Larry and watch the excavation process on youtube.com titled "Willow Creek Jasper Mining". Again, these thundereggs are filled with fine



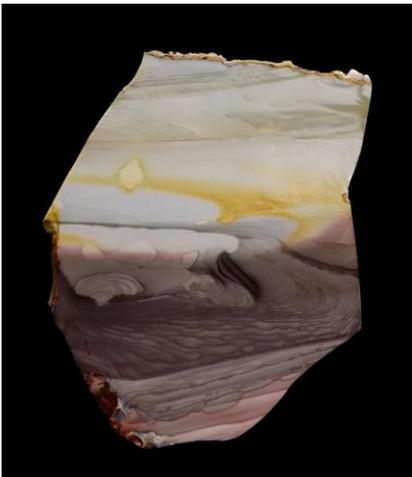
Bruneau Jasper Thundereggs



Willow Creek Jasper Thundereggs

lapidary jasper in beautiful, swirling patterns, mostly in pastel colors. Only a small percentage of the thundereggs contain the extraordinary jaspers, and an even tinier percentage of smaller ones have anything inside of interest. Good smaller ones are exceptionally rare! If you are planning a visit to Quartzsite this coming January, you can see Larry at Desert Gardens, where he will be selling Willow Creek Jasper.

A third unique thunderegg site in Idaho is the Spencer Opal Mines, at which thunderegg formations are sometimes filled with layers of precious opal. Our own club member Aaron Miller has worked this site and has some very nice photos on his Facebook page "Ancient Earth Trading Company". This site is under claim but you can go there to dig for a fee.



**A Slab of
Willow Creek Jasper
Thunderegg**

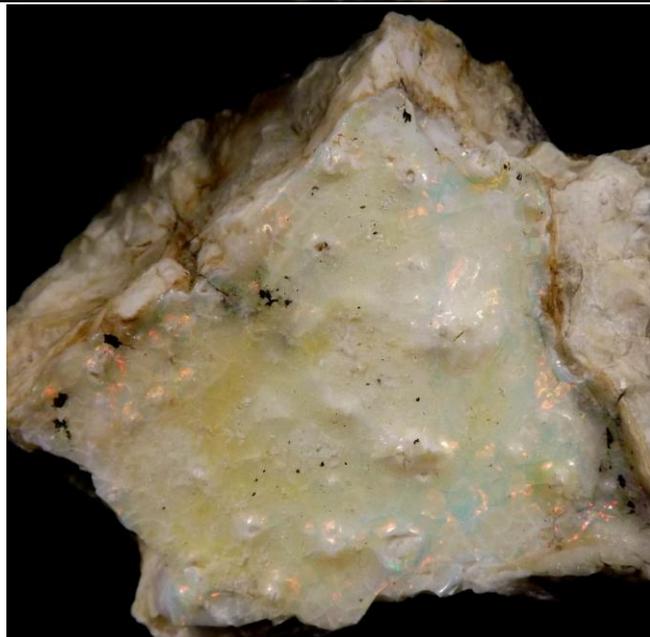


**Spencer Opal Mine
Thunderegg**

With a seemingly
Empty cavity

Closer inspection
Reveals Precious
Opal

Photos Below



How do Geologists measure water?

Answer: with Quartz

Did you know?

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

Winter will soon set in for the northern hemisphere and many people will begin thinking about having a “white Christmas.” Of course we will be out here in what the pop group The Rivieras’ 1964 hit song called “the warm California sun” (unless, of course, we journey up into higher elevations seeking some snow). But, has it always been that way? I mean “**geologic always**” as in millions and billions of years of deep time? Is it possible that the earth, in its early geologic history, was once a completely frozen planet? For a long time, scientists thought the answer was a definite “NO” because, according to their calculations, if the planet ever completely froze (meaning all of the land masses and all of the oceans were covered with ice) there would be no going back to an unfrozen condition. To a large degree it made sense because energy-balance models developed during the 1960s predicted that as ice advanced farther and farther south towards the equator, the albedo, or amount of reflected energy from the white surface, would cause even more ice to form and at an increasing rate of speed. Simply put, as more of the planet is covered with a white surface, it would become inevitable that even more ice will develop because even more energy from the sun is being reflected back into space and lost to the planet. Once complete frozen status was achieved, scientists in the 1960s could think of no conceivable reversal mechanism. And so the reasoning became: therefore the earth could not have ever been completely frozen over because if it did it would still be frozen over! It would look something like this artist rendition by Walter Myers:



Did you know?

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

Of course, science moves forward by questioning the assumptions and conclusions of previous workers and in 1992, Geologist/Geobiologist Joseph Kirschvink at Cal Tech conclusively demonstrated that there was such a mechanism to bring about reversal and that mechanism was the addition to the atmosphere of enormous amounts of carbon dioxide through the output of gasses by swarms of massive volcanoes. This addition of enormous amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by these volcanoes would then have a greenhouse effect – but a greenhouse effect on steroids. He also demonstrated conclusively that there was sufficient evidence that there was global glaciation and there are worldwide strata to give evidence of this phenomenon. As a result, he coined the term “Snowball Earth,” a term that has now become well known in the literature of geophysics and geobiology. Now, I say “demonstrated conclusively” as if there is not a shred of doubt left. In fact, I was convinced of the accuracy of his theory after reading one of his latest books A New History of Life that Kirschvink has written with Peter Ward and which was published in 2015. But, just convincing the geology geek does not mean that there aren't a considerable number of geologists who disagree; so we would have to say that it might not be conclusive and that there is still controversy about the theory.

The book is really about some very interesting theories about the mechanisms necessary to bring about the creation of life (which can be broadly defined as the ability of hydrocarbon compounds to reproduce themselves). It is an attempt to answer the question about just how a double helix hydrocarbon compound might have come into being from various possible amino acids and other chemical compounds in a “primordial soup.” I suppose that there is sufficient interesting theory in Ward and Kirschvink's book to provide fodder for many of my “Did You Know” columns, and perhaps I will summarize some of the others in the future. But the idea of a “Snowball Earth” was enough to whet my appetite for reading this new book and I can recommend it to anyone interested in the subject of the creation of life (at least, life as we know it...) It turns out that there have been several episodes of our planet turning into a giant snowball. The first one is dated at 2.35 billion years ago and it may actually have been caused by life at the time – cyanobacteria which had already gotten off to a good start with an explosive rise in population in the earth's oceans. So explosive in fact, that it literally soaked up all of the carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere resulting in a dramatic reduction in our planet's greenhouse effect. Thus it caused more and more ice. But, everything that has a beginning also has an end and the advance of ice blocked the sun's rays from reaching into the ice covered oceans thus starving the cyanobacteria of their ability to capture energy from the sun and harness it into life. Except for a few pools of water on the surface of ice in the lower latitudes, the oceans mostly became devoid of life.

Fast forward a couple of billion years to the period 850 to 635 million years ago – what geologists have long called the Precambrian Age. It now appears that there were two major Snowball Earth events during this time span and it is hypothesized that the more recent of these two events resulted in the wide diversification of life which we suddenly see in the Cambrian Period. Imagine small isolated pools or lakes of life still hanging on in the middle of this major freeze and you can envision a situation where evolution takes place rather rapidly and without any interaction between these isolated pools. Thus, there is not a threat of other creatures which might devour all of your own kind before you have really gotten a good-sized population or any defensive mechanisms. Add more volcano swarms that increase carbon dioxide, cause a greenhouse effect, warm the planet, and suddenly everything that evolved separately (all of the major phyla) is thrown together in the oceans. Well, I definitely can imagine and envision it after reading New History of Life. You might want to dig into it as well if you're a fossil collector!

Just thought you would like to know...

Post script: This column marks the end of five years of publishing the “did you know” column in the Rockonteur Newsletter. The kind words of several readers over the years are greatly appreciated. But, as with many other endeavors, sometimes life gets in the way of continued production and, that being the case with me at this time, the plan now is to transition to an occasional article on the fascinating subject of geology rather than grinding out a new one every month. Thanks again for your kind attention over the last half decade!

General Meeting of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds, November 16, 2015

The meeting opened at 7:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Kerrigan Jensen led the singing of "Happy Birthday" to those Rockhounds born in the month of November. Mike Judy introduced Don Barton and Ruth Doty, who have recently joined the Club, and Faith Clary did the badge check.

Cliff Brewen will be holding his annual tailgate sale on November 21st, from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. He will be selling lapidary equipment and rocks, and there will be a silent auction for some Alaskan gold. Anyone else who has stuff to sell should get there by 7:00 A.M., and there should be enough tables for everyone. Mike Judy reminded everyone that it is time to renew memberships. New members who have joined the Club since July will be credited \$10 on next year's membership dues. John McCabe presented Karen and Amanda with their Junior Rockhound certificates.

The annual election was held, and the membership elected the following slate of officers to serve on the Board in 2016: President; Mike Judy, Vice President of Programs; Joyce Baird, Vice President of Education; John McCabe, Vice President of Communications; Brett Weathersbee, Secretary; Alice Rodriguez, Treasurer; Doren Strane, Senior Director; David Nelson, Junior Director; Ralph Lawless.

Anyone who would like to help out with hospitality, merchandise, membership, the drawing, the silent auction, or the newsletter, is encouraged to contact the appropriate people. Denise Halopoff is retiring from her position as Hospitality Chair, so volunteers in this department are particularly welcome. Mike Judy thanked the Binghamms for their recent assistance.

Mary Caparone is taking reservations for the Club's annual holiday dinner at the Culinary Arts Academy on December 14th, at 7:00 P.M. The dinner this year will feature meat lasagna and chicken Alfredo, and will be followed by the customary gift exchange. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, and a minimum of 30 reservations are needed.

There will be no business or general meeting during the month of December. Starting in January, the Board has voted to hold the business meeting on the same date as the general meeting, starting at 6:00 P.M. This new meeting format will be given a three-month trial.

Mike Judy reminded everyone that the Quartzite and Tucson events will be coming up in January and February, and announced that January's general meeting will be a Show and Tell. Denise Halopoff announced that there are two jackets and a power cord in Lost and Found from last month's meeting. The Show and Tell table featured polished Brazilian agates, a marble sphere made by Cliff Brewen, some arrowheads made by Ralph Lawless from Lavic Siding jasper, and other interesting things.

The featured speaker for the evening was Drew Arnold, who gave a very interesting talk about his experiences diving for jade in Jade Cove, and brought a number of nice specimens for everyone to see. At 8:25 P.M., the meeting adjourned for refreshments, the drawing, and the silent auction, dispersing between 8:40 and 9:00 P.M.

Hoping you have much to be thankful for this year, I am respectfully yours,
Rachael Denny,
Secretary.

Good Humor: from Fossils Trails 10/96

What mineral catches Thieves?

Answer: Copper

Santa Lucia RockHounds Board Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2015

- The meeting began at 7:03 with the Flag Salute.
- Roll Call was recited by Denise Halopoff, standing in for Rachael Denny. Board members present were Mike Judy, Brett Weathersbee, John McCabe, Barbara Bilyeu, Rachel Miller, and Doren Strane. Committee Chairpersons present were above mentioned members in addition to Tina Clark and Denise Halopoff. Guests present were Alice Rodriguez, Tom Wylie, and Laurie Wylie.
- Minutes in Octobers Newsletter were approved as written.
- There will be no Board Meeting in December due to the Officer Installation Dinner and Winter Solstice Celebration being held on the second Monday of the month. The third Monday of the month is too close to the Christmas Holiday to assure attendance. The Board members will communicate by phone and email for any business that needs attending to.
- Mike Judy will pick up the key for the November General Meeting.
- Treasurer Rachel Miller gave her report. There were no other questions.
- Meeting Income: \$882.00, Silent Auction: \$29.00, Drawing: \$57.00, Membership: \$588.00, Merchandise: \$208.00
- Secretary Rachel Denny was not present so there was no report.
- V.P. Programs Beverly Brown was not present, but had communicated that Drew Arnold was confirmed for our next meeting in November.
- V.P. Communications Brett Weathersbee reported that he will begin calling radio stations for our 2016 Rock Show advertising.
- V.P. John McCabe reported that he spoke at SLO Classical Academy, teaching four classes in two days about dino poop and sulfur to elementary students. Owen Dalton, Collette Dalton, Karen Clark and Amanda Clark will all get their badges at the meeting. Juniors will get back in business—haven't met since August! John will do a class on outer space! All kids will get a small piece of Vince Pellerin's meteor! Those Juniors are a busy bunch! John also mentioned that when he was visiting Texas he saw dino tracks that were as big as bathtubs!
- Sr. Director David Nelson was not present so there was no report.
- Jr. Director Doren Strane was present, but had nothing to report.
- Past President Barbara Bilyeu had nothing to report.
- President Mike Judy reported that we can't invest in a CD until we pay our taxes on the property. John McCabe suggested he "Just do it!" and put the money in a CD. We received a property tax bill but that was paid thru escrow.
- Nominating Committee John McCabe, Alice Rodriguez, and Denise Halopoff discussed the nominees that they chose for next year. Most positions were filled, and a few were vacant, but they speculated that someone would step forward to fill them at the meeting. John mentioned that he really enjoyed being on the nominating committee this year.
- CFMS Director Gene Bilyeu was not present, however Barbara Bilyeu reported for him, saying that the Annual meeting in Visalia was the coming weekend and that Gene would be attending. Other than that, Barbara reported that Gene said that there was nothing else necessary to report at this time...
- Field Trip Director is still vacant.
- Officer Installment Dinner and Winter Solstice Dinner is approaching quickly, Dec. 14. Mike Judy and Denise Halopoff spoke with the Culinary Institute and reserved a room. Their prices have increased from \$15 to \$19, not including tip and tax. Total price is between \$22-\$24 per person. We will be having an Italian Feast, with Meat Lasagna, Chicken & Spinach Alfredo, green salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Last year Members paid \$10 and Club paid \$5 per person. Price increase was discussed and the decision was made to have club members pay \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 & under. We will still be having the gift exchange.
- Membership Committee person Brett Weathersbee presented two new members, Ruth Doty and Don Barton. Both were accepted as members. Brett moved that we have the Board Meeting one hour before the General Meeting. Barbara Bilyeu stated that had been tried before but didn't work. She also stated that she and Gene Bilyeu, who was not present, would not be able to attend. Alice Rodriguez said she might not be able to attend. Mike brought up that we were going to have to start renting the conference room from TCD since Denise kicked us out of the Wellness Kitchen. Tina Clark mentioned that RaboBank has a meeting room that we can look into. Mike would like to meet an hour before the General Meeting on a 3 month trial basis. Barbara Bilyeu brought up the fact that we needed to hold show meetings at some point and this would be extremely difficult to do before the General Meeting. In spite of those oppositions, it was voted on and approved that we will hold Board Meetings one hour before the General Meeting for a 3 month trial.

- Insurance Committee Gene Bilyeu was not present, however Barbara Bilyeu gave copies of our current insurance to Mike Judy. She then reported that Gene reported that there was nothing else to report.
- Museum Exhibit Committee Barbara Bilyeu reported that she cleaned up our exhibit that had suffered some water and/or soda damage in one of the cases.
- Museum Liaison, Library, and Historian had nothing to report.
- Hospitality Committee Denise Halopoff reported that she was retiring from being hospitable so she could concentrate on the Drawing. She will announce that at the next meeting so someone might take the position over. If not, it will be frozen peas and water for snacks!
- Newsletter Editor Tina Clark got a warm welcome to the Board, and a big "Thank You" for already doing a wonderful job editing our newsletter.
- Newsletter Publisher (Interim) Mike Judy said we are still looking for a person to take over this position.
- Website Editor, Merchandise, and Silent Auction Committees weren't present.
- Drawing Committee Mike Judy and Denise Halopoff said the drawing has been doing well, and made \$57 despite the fact there was really not a lot of time at last meeting.
- Show Chair Committee was not present.
- Other Business: Tom Wylie brought an offer from Isabella Jewelry in Los Osos that we lease their business space to use as a lapidary shop and classroom in conjunction with the SLO Club and the Orcutt Club. Beverly Brown has more information and will be bringing that to us at a later date.

Show Committee Meeting:

- The show will be held on April 23 & 24, 2016. At this time we are the only event scheduled at the fairgrounds.
- The question was brought up if we wanted to have another gold nugget for the Grand Prize again. It was decided that yes, we do. This year we will also mention it in our advertising.
- Mike Judy is 80% complete with a show manual. He also reported that we had \$5000 profit from the show last year.
- We need volunteers for all positions. Brett Weathersbee and Christine Vitarisi will handle the Entrance Booth, Admissions, and Membership.
- Tom & Laurie Wylie will handle the Geode Cracking Booth. They will need some geodes. Tom will talk with Aaron Miller to see if we can get more Moroccan geodes. We also need \$1 sized geodes – he will talk with Aaron and/or the Gem Center.
- Mike and Margaret Doherty are retiring from the Children's Booth. Alice Rodriguez volunteered for the Children's Activities and Treasure Hunt. Alice mentioned upgrading the prizes for the Children's Activities...we need more shiny blingy things! The Board agreed.
- Mike brought up the need for a DJ to do the announcements for the programs and such. Barbara Bilyeu mentioned she hates things like that. The fact is we still need someone to announce when our speakers are going to start their programs. Brett Weathersbee mentioned that he could do that and we will see if we can rent equipment from the Fairgrounds.
- We will need more security at the show, and many people to do vendor sweeps at the end of the day, so we need to make certain we have many afternoon volunteers. This will be brought up at the General Meeting as the Show grows closer.
- G Brothers will be providing the food for the show again in 2016.
- Barbara Bilyeu needs contacts for vendors ASAP. She already has two thunder egg vendors lined up.
- Mike plans on contacting the Fairgrounds so he can do a walk through and map out the building. Barbara Bilyeu and Brett Weathersbee want to be present on the walk through. We can have outdoor vendors this year. We will have to talk with the Fairgrounds about where the outdoor vendors RVs can be parked...by their display? This is important for their security.

With no other questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

~~~Submitted by Denise Halopoff~~~

November 20, 2015

To President Mike Judy and Members of the Board of Directors,

Effective December 1, 2015, I resign my position as Past President of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Barbara Bilyeu  
Past President  
Santa Lucia Rockhounds

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 – Tina Clark**

**Interim Publisher – Michael Judy**

(805) 238-4469 [SLRockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:SLRockhounds@gmail.com)

**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)

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**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)**.

## YOUR NEW BOARD FOR 2016

|                                   |                                          |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| President:                        | Mike Judy                                |
| Vice President of Programs:       | Joyce Baird                              |
| Vice President of Education:      | John McCabe                              |
| Vice President of Communications: | Brett Weathersbee                        |
| Secretary:                        | Alice Rodriguez                          |
| Treasurer:                        | Doren Strane                             |
| Senior Director:                  | David Nelson                             |
| Junior Director:                  | Ralph Lawless                            |
| <b>Past President:</b>            | <b>Resigned Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2015</b> |

## 2015 OFFICERS CHAIR

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**Jr. Director, Doren Strane**

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**Past President, Barbara Bilyeu**

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## 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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