



ROCKONTUER

Volume 25, Issue 11

November 2015

Words from the President:

Wow, Richard Wade was fantastic at the last General Meeting. He had everyone in awe, and not just the Junior Rockhounds. You could've heard a pin drop it was so quiet, with everyone hanging onto his every word. I definitely learned more about Astronomy and how wide space really is. His presentation was an eye opener for anybody wanting to learn the distance between Earth to the Moon, to the Sun, and to the next closest Star. It was a blast!

Where has this year gone? There has been so much going on with the club, and the Board has been very active all year. This year is now winding down, and we are looking forward to our Officers Installation and Winter Solstice Celebration Dinner. The Club's 25th Anniversary and 2016 Gem and Mineral Show is coming quickly, featuring Biconoids, Thunder Eggs, and Geodes...oh, my!

The Officers Installation and Winter Solstice Celebration Dinner will be held at the Culinary Arts Academy in Paso Robles, and will be a good time for all. If you have an ugly sweater, a silly hat, or a spare pair of antlers, wear them! The Gift Exchange has been lots of fun for years now, and continues to get funnier each year. This is a great time to get to know your fellow RockHounds, and recognize our past and present officers. We need a minimum of thirty paid participants by December 1st to make this happen, so make sure to sign up at the November meeting. If you are interested in helping with this event let me know, we sure could use an extra hand!

The Club held its first Show Committee Meeting this past Monday, after our Board Meeting. The Show is not far away, and we have many open positions to fill in order to make the event a success. Many of our experienced Show Committee members have taken on the more complex and time consuming tasks, but that doesn't mean they wouldn't like a little help! There are jobs to do both before and during the show. We need Volunteers to lighten the load on everybody involved, so get thinking about what you want to do to help!

Also the Club is in need of two volunteers for Board Positions and a few for Committee Positions. The two Board Positions, Secretary and Treasurer need to be filled before 2016. I know volunteering can sometime feel overwhelming, but you will find that it feels rewarding to be such an important part of the club. And, you might even have fun being on the board because we're a funny group of folks! Help us make your Club even better...Volunteer!

Enjoy our November Rockontuer, with our new Editor **Tina Clark** at the helm. There is still our November Meeting (**November 16th, this coming Monday**) with **Drew Arnold** wowing us with his Jade Adventures presentation, **Cliff & Elethea Brewen's** Tailgate, and our **Officer's Installation and Winter Solstice Celebration!**~~Mike Judy~~

General Meeting
November 16th
@
Templeton

No
General Meeting
in
December

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

December 14, 2015 7 PM

@ Paso Robles Culinary School

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

**Voting Club Officers Positions
for 2016
(We need VOLUNTEERS)**

President:	Mike Judy
VP Programs:	Joyce Baird
VP Education:	John McCabe
VP Communications:	Brett Weathersbee
Secretary:	OPEN POSITION
Treasurer:	OPEN POSITION
Sr. Director:	David Nelson
Jr. Director:	Alice Rodriguez
Past President:	Barbara Bilyeu

Every Club's success is based on it's Volunteers, and we need Volunteers.

A person who Volunteers because they want to volunteer, brings pride and energy to their position. A person who feels coerced to Volunteer cannot bring that same energy.

We need more people to volunteer. If its always the same Club Members who fill in open positions and are doing the behind the scenes work, they will eventually lose the pride and energy they started out with. They begin to feel they are missing out on all the fun everyone else is having at the activities they have planned for the Club.

We have a great Club with a foundation to last a very long time, but with no Volunteers, the foundation will crumble and fall. We need Volunteers!

Club Committee Positions

We need VOLUNTEERS for 2016

CFMS Director:	Gene Bilyeu
CFMS Alternate:	Jim Mills
Drawings:	Michael Judy
Field Trips:	OPEN POSITION +1OPEN POSITION
Membership:	Brett Weathersbee Christine Vitarisi
Merchandise:	David Nelson +1OPEN POSITION
Museum & Library:	Barbara Bilyeu
Hospitality:	OPEN POSITION
History:	Mike Doherty
Rock & Gem Show:	Michael Judy
Silent Auction:	Pete Duckworth
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Clark
Newsletter Publisher:	OPEN POSITION

Show Committee Positions

We need VOLUNTEERS for 2016

Show Chairperson:	Mike Judy	Entrance Booth:	Brett Weathersbee Christine Vitarisi
Show Treasurer:	Doren Strane +1OPEN POSITION	Admissions:	OPEN POSITION +1OPEN POSITION
Volunteers Coordinator:	Tina Clark +1OPEN POSITION	Drawing:	Denise Halopoff +1OPEN POSITION
Vendors Chairperson:	Kim Noyes +1OPEN POSITION	Club Information:	OPEN POSITION +1OPEN POSITION
Show Publicity:	Brett Weathersbee +1OPEN POSITION	Merchandise:	David Nelson +1OPEN POSITION
Show Food Vendor:	Mike Judy	Children Activities:	Alice Rodriguez Alvaro Rodriguez +1OPEN POSITION
Show Insurance:	Mike Judy		
Show Security:	OPEN POSITION +1OPEN POSITION	Geode-Whacking:	Thomas Wylie Laurie Wylie +1OPEN POSITION
Exhibits:	Barbara Bilyeu	Gravel Pit (Silent Auction):	Galen Moyer +1OPEN POSITION
Demonstrators:	Gene Bilyeu		
Show Food Hospitality:	OPEN POSITION +1OPEN POSITION	Rock-Doctor:	Wayne Mills +1OPEN POSITION

Dues are Due again:

Brett Weathersbee and Christine Vitarisi are 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, cash, or credit card). 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.

Junior Rockhounds:

At the October meeting, Junior Rockhounds got to both watch and participate in Richard Wade's talk on astronomy, helping him to demonstrate the true size and scale of our solar system. At the November meeting, Junior Rockhounds will have the chance to work on the remaining items necessary for them to earn an astronomy badge.~~TC~~

November Program Speaker:

Drew Arnold will talk to us about jade. His experience on the subject includes diving for it in nearby Jade Cove, to carving and polishing. Come join us and discover for yourself why jade has held a special attraction for mankind for thousands of years!

~~TC~~



Cliff's Tailgate/Yard Sale

November 21, 2015

Officer's Installation & Winter Solstice

Dinner

December 14, 2015

What happened when the tuba player lost his grip???

answer: His Hornfel

Good Humor From Doren Strane

Did you know?

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

The geology geek is traveling to far away geologic environs this month but will be back in time for the December issue. So, here's a reprinted article from several years ago in case you are new to the club (and newsletter) or simply don't remember the subject of the article.

Have you ever gone hiking in a lava tube? And, "...just what is a lava tube?" you say. It is a question to which you should know the answer because California has some of the world's very best lava tubes at Lava Beds National Monument in Modoc County (the far northeast corner of the state). If you have not been there, it's time to plan a trip.

Lava tubes have an easy-to-understand geological origin. First, think about a fresh lava flow moving down a hillside like a river. Make sure it is a thick lava flow – perhaps many tens of feet thick. Then think about it entering a fairly narrow passage where the lava becomes even thicker. Perhaps it is a cool day (certainly Iceland's volcanic fields see a lot of these, even if Hawaii's volcanic fields are strangers to cold temperatures.) The cold air temperature makes the molten lava "skin-over" which might remind you of the skin that forms on warmed milk. But, air temperatures are not cold enough to harden all of the lava – only the surface will harden and the lava will continue to flow in the subterranean tube created by the newly hardened skin of lava. Depending on how far the lava flows, the resulting tube can be very long – extending in many cases for hundreds or thousands of feet.



As the outpouring of lava from the volcano source begins to decline, the surface of the river of lava flowing through the tube gets lower and lower until it finally does not have enough molten rock to continue flowing or does not have sufficient "head" to keep pushing the lava forward. The result will be an empty tunnel formed with solid lava ceiling, walls, and floor.

At Lava Beds National Monument, you can borrow a hardhat and a lantern from the rangers at the visitor center and descend on constructed stairways and/or ladders to explore the lava tube caves on your own. It is a rewarding geology experience, made all the more interesting when you understand the dynamics which caused these tubes to form.

Just thought you would like to know...

Last months speaker: "Richard Wade" on Astronomy

At the October meeting, Richard Wade captivated the entire club membership, kids and adults alike. His effort to depict why we can't even begin to comprehend the enormity of both our solar system and the universe, blew us away.

He started by wanting us to better understand the concept of a trillion, a term loosely thrown around when discussing distances in space. He did this by providing a visual model of what the number "one million" actually means. Every Rockhound present, would attest to the fact that it's a lot of dots. We all felt pretty good about our ability to grasp this huge number, until he clarified that a trillion is a "million, millions".

He gave us a much better appreciation of how an accurately scaled model of our solar system would look as compared to what we were shown as youngsters. He used a basketball to represent Earth and a baseball for the moon, and we discovered that our meeting room was barely large enough to accurately demonstrate the distance between the two. Then, he stretched our minds to the limit by introducing planets and stars from outside our solar system into the discussion, along with their relative sizes and distances.

Just when we all started to feel puny, Richard advised us not to do so. He explained that if you look at the size of an entire galaxy and the size of subatomic particle, human beings fall about halfway. Not too shabby, in the grand scheme of things. Particularly, if you take Richard at his word that we are only stardust after all . . . ~TC~

Thundereggs of Eastern Oregon

As we leave the prolific Ochoco Mountains and continue east through central Oregon toward Idaho, we pass through a couple more really spectacular areas for thunderegg collecting. The first one is no longer open for collecting, but the Buchanan Ranch, located along Hwy 20 near Burns, has a number of beds that have produced some iconic specimens. A couple of them typically feature an "exploded star" formation, with an often scenic interior, as if you are peering in through a ragged frame. One of them is named "Secret Ridge", which I thought was a joke the first time I heard it -- but that's really its name! Further east and south of Hwy. 20 is an area loosely referred to as "Harper", which has some very unique thundereggs, pretty readily identifiable by thunderegg collectors. The outside, or matrix, is generally in shades of red, and the beds feature names such as "Desert Dog", "Dry Creek" and "Skull Springs". These areas are mostly under claim and you can only collect with permission, but an area that is still open is on the border with Idaho, called Succor Creek. Sometimes you will see it referred to as "Sucker Creek", but the original term "succor" was probably meant by overland travelers to portray relief at the existence of the clear waters of the creek south of the Snake River in an otherwise dry land. Again, Succor Creek features several different thunderegg beds, but the most well-known tends to produce very distinctive thundereggs in tones of brown with gray quartz interiors.~~Barbara Bilyeu~~



Buchanan Ranch



Buchanan Ranch



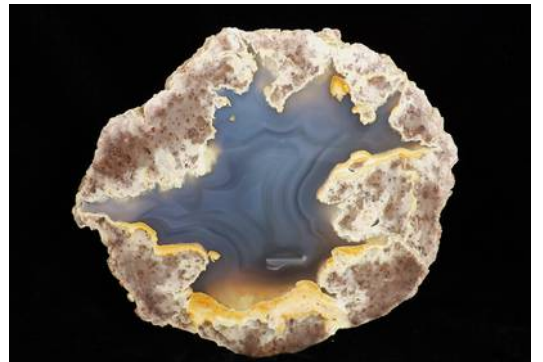
Harper Area



Harper Area



Succor Creek



Succor Creek

Why couldn't the volcano eat Thanksgiving dinner???

Answer: His plate was broken.

Good Humor From Jr. Rockhound Amanda C.

Save The Date!

Monday, December 14, 2015
for the
Santa Lucia RockHounds
Officers Installation Dinner
and
Winter Solstice Celebration

With Optional Cranberry Stomp
Replacing the Event Formally Known as "Holiday Party"

Come Dine with all your RockHounding Friends!
Enjoy an Italian Feast artfully prepared by
The Paso Robles Culinary Academy
The Festivities Start at 7:00 pm.

See Your Newly Elected Officers Get Sworn Into Office!

Partake in a Rousing Gift Exchange Game!

Laugh Heartily When People Receive Large Pickles
And Products With The Words "Monkey Butt" On Them!

If you would like to share hors d'oeuvres
Please bring enough for all!

If you would like to participate in the Gift Exchange
Please bring a \$12 Rock-Related, Pickle-Related,
Or Monkey-Butt-Related Gift
Children's Gifts need to be marked as Children's Gifts

Prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Children

Why couldn't the Volcano see at night???

Didn't turn on his Lava Lamp.

Good Humor From Karen C.

Save the Date!

Cliff's Tailgate/Yardsale

Saturday, November 21, 2015

10 Annual Rock Sale

Please join us in the 10th Annual Rock Sale. If you're new to the club, come on by and check us out. If you have been making up some rock related things and would like to sale. Just bring your truck and drop that tailgate. Or if by car bring a table. We will have club members to talk rock. Some sale items that will be there: Lapidary Equipment, and Rocks, Rocks, and more Rocks.

Setup Time 7am at 6384 Monterey Rd, Paso Robles

Sale 8am to 2pm

Coffee and Donuts / Lunch at noon FREE for vendors

Questions call Cliff at 805-610-1579

We will Silent Auction off

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**Due's
Are
Due**

**October 12 2015
Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Board Meeting Minutes**

President Mike Judy called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Attendees present at roll call were Mike Judy, Bret Weathersbee, Rachel Miller, David Nelson, Doren Strane, Vince Pellerin, Denise Halopoff, Mike Doherty and Don Huntington. Five voting board members attended this meeting.

Brett moved to accept the minutes as presented in the newsletter. David Nelson offered a second and the minutes were so approved.

President Mike Judy read the correspondence. He also stated he would pick up the keys for the general meeting since the guest speaker required 45 minutes for set up time.

Rachel Miller gave the treasurer's report. Funds received at the Picnic totaled \$523 including \$52 from merchandise. Rachel still had \$111 to deposit and that will be reported in next month's treasurer report.

Vince Pellerin, acting secretary, reported receiving the AFMS newsletter, the Ventura Gem and Mineral society newsletter, the CFMS newsletter and the Cuesta College news.

David Nelson suggested selling the old tables owned by the club due to their heavy weight and purchasing lighter tables for next year's show.

Doren Strane represented the club at the Pioneer museum last Saturday and handed out 25 fliers. He said one individual expressed interest in possibly giving a presentation.

The board discussed the upcoming Christmas party. The decision to have the party and where to hold it will be made at the general meeting next week. Mary Caparone is retiring from coordinating the Christmas dinner so we need a volunteer to take over.

Bret held up one new membership application from Keith Eminger who has flint knapping as an interest. His application was accepted by the board. Mike Judy also gave Bret a master list of who has paid dues to date. Dues are due at the next general meeting.

Historian Mike Doherty said that grab bags make money at the show. However he and his wife Margaret are retiring from handling the kid's games at the show. He will be happy to coach/mentor anyone interested in helping out with this task.

Mike Judy wanted to point out that articles in the newsletter ending with the initials T.C. are written by Tina Clark.

Vince stated that next year's show postcard and the newest Rockontuer are now on the website.

David Nelson declared that all merchandise orders had been filled. Denise informed the Board that the club now has a square account and that we can process credit card payments now.

In closing, Mike Judy said that Gene Bilyeu has canceled the insurance on our recently sold property. Denise said that we received a refund of \$69 from the county for the park rental.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:02

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Treasurer, Rachel Miller
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Sr. Director, David Nelson
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Jr. Director, Doren Strane
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Past President, Barbara Bilyeu
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Field Trips, Vacant
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**Please
Volunteer**

**2015 October
General Meeting Minutes
Santa Lucia Rockhounds**

President Mike Judy opened the meeting with the flag salute at 7:02 The sunshine kid Amanda led the group singing happy birthday to one rockhound and happy anniversary to Mary Caparone.

Several first time attendees introduced themselves and the club accepted 11 new members. Frank Imhoof acted as badge checker.

Mike thanked Galen Moyer for hosting the annual lapidary picnic August 22. He also thanked Don Huntington for exhibiting his metal detecting skills at the annual club picnic. He also thanked Tina Clark for volunteering to be the newsletter editor.

Cliff Brewen will have his annual tailgate rock sale November 21st. Hours are 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Sale items include rocks and lapidary equipment. There will also be an auction for some gold originating from Fairbanks Alaska. Talk to Cliff if you wish to participate as a seller.

2016 dues can be paid tonight. Dues are \$20 for the first individual and \$8 for each additional family member.

Mike requested a volunteer to serve on the nominating committee alongside Denise Halopoff and John McCabe. Alice Rodriguez volunteered to fill the vacancy. Mike also requested that anyone interested in helping out with the general meeting or annual show please talk to him. We need volunteers.

The next board meeting will be brief. The bulk of that night will be taken up discussing the next annual show. All members are urged to attend this meeting to see where they can help at the upcoming show. Mike stated that it takes at least 30 club members to run the show successfully and minimize the stress. Show postcards are available for distribution. See Mike for postcards.

The holiday party was discussed and a consensus reached to continue the party and have it At the culinary school.

Alternatives presented were to have a get together at the general meeting venue or at a buffet style restaurant. The members also voted to move the party to December 14th

Beverly Brown introduced guest speaker Richard Wade. He gave a very interesting presentation about the planets and the universe.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55

The Rockontuer 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

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.

Rockontuer 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 Pellerin

(831) 594-1381 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 Rockontuer 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)**.

November Rock Shows

November 14 - 15: SACRAMENTO, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society

November 14 - 15: YUBA CITY, CA
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society

November 21 - 22: APPLE VALLEY, CA
Valley Gem Gem & Mineral Club

November 21 - 22: SANTA CRUZ, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society

December Rock Shows

December 5 - 6: BARSTOW, CA
Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society

December 5 - 6: LAKESIDE, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society

December 12 - 13: RIALTO, CA
Orange Belt Mineralogical Society

2016

January rock shows

January 16 - 17: EXETER, CA
Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia

Quartzsite & Tucson, AZ

February rock shows

February 12 - 21: INDIO, CA
San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society

February 20 - 21: ANTIOCH, CA
Antioch Gem Club

February 27 - 28: VALLEJO, CA
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Officers Installation

&

Winter Solstice

Celebration

Dinner

December 14th

7 PM

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

Address Correction Requested