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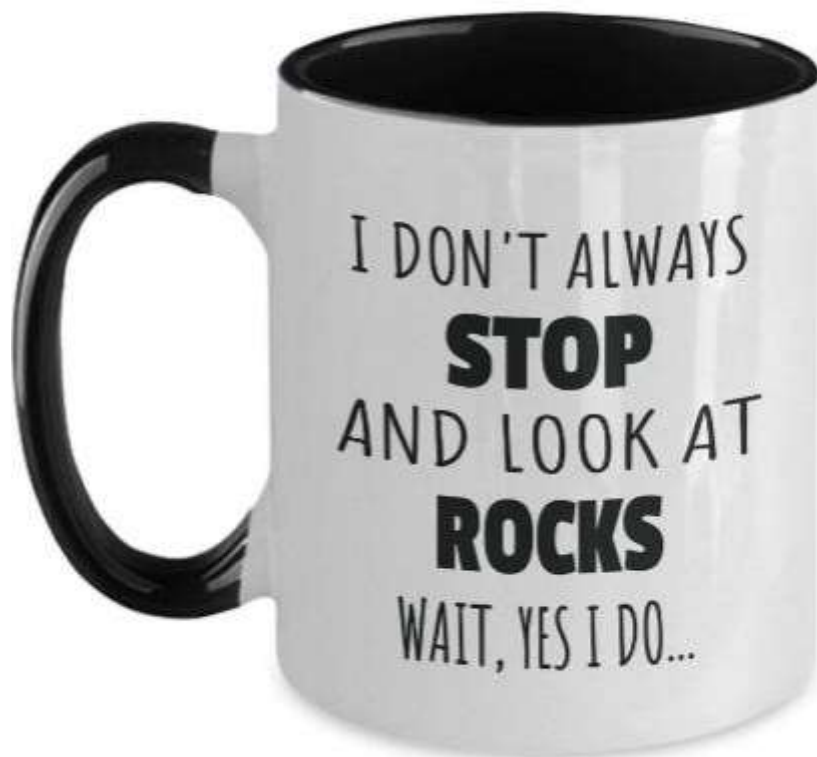


NAME THAT ROCK

The banner photo (above) changes each month - can you identify what type of rock it is? Answer is on last page but don't peek until you've tried to guess!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Birthstones | 2 |
| Words from the President | 3 |
| Meeting, Events, Announcements | 4 |
| Features | 5 |
| Board Minutes | 7 |



Note from Editor:

Bet you Rockhounds aren't staying locked up at home right now and are out and about rockhounding!

Send me some pics of your latest adventures and treasures. You can also send me a short video (3-5 min.) telling us what you love about rockhounding, your favorite rock and gem related topic or skill, etc. I'll turn them into a presentation and place it on our website. View it as if we are all together during a general meeting. Send to: amyphillips18@hotmail.com.

-Take care and be safe, Amy



Santa Lucia Rockhounds (SLR)

is a non-profit public benefit corporation with the specific purpose to promote the study of mineralogy, including (but not limited to) the fields of lapidary, metal working, jewelry design and fabrication, geology and conducts field trips for collecting and education. We encourage learning and good citizenship in a congenial atmosphere. We respect both private and public property, and we strive to protect natural resources. Meetings are held during the third Monday of each month, except December, at the Templeton Community Center.

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

Annual dues are \$20 for the first adult and \$8 each for every additional member of the same household. Annual dues are payable between August 1 and the third Monday of December, in person at Club meetings or by mail to P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

The Rockonteur

This is the official monthly newsletter of the SLR and an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of SLR and of interests to its members. Circulation is approximately 100 copies per issue.

Member submissions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the SLR. Submissions may be edited as needed without consent. Deadline are due by midnight of the last day of the month but early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged.

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Birthstones



Picture by Luciana Barbosa

EMERALD

Emerald's name is derived from the Greek word smaragdus, meaning "green gem."

Emerald gemstones were mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emerald gemstones. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry and in their elaborate burials, often burying emerald stones with monarchs as symbols of protection.

On the other side of the world, the Muzo Indians of Colombia had well-hidden and prized emerald mines. These mines were so hidden, it took the Spanish conquistadors nearly twenty years to find them.

Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace, and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful jewelry gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

Learn more: <https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/emeraldoverview>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rockhound/Lapidary Arts family!

I'm sorry you have not heard much from me since the April newsletter. That is on me! Same goes for the lateness of this May newsletter. I assure you that the June newsletter will actually get to you earlier in June. Contrary to my claim in my previous message that I was ready to get back to work as your club president, apparently, I was not.

With all that has been happening to all of us, family and work and self-care have taken a front seat in my life over all else. Talking to some of you by phone or email over the past couple of months I know this sentiment is popular. It is also true that the world is beginning to open back up and with it, more opportunities to get more active again in the rockhounding and lapidary arts hobbies. It is also true that rockhounding/lapidary arts makes for some pleasant distraction.

I want you each to know that your board has remained active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine period, meeting via Zoom and will do so again on June 1st at 7 p.m. We also are contemplating conducting a June general meeting via Zoom. We will soon be sending out an email survey to gauge your level of interest in meeting as a club via Zoom on Monday night June 15th at 7 p.m. In fact, our June board meeting via Zoom will be open to the general membership for any of you who wish to observe it.

Your board will be brainstorming this coming Monday night in its Zoom meeting for ideas of club activities (like field trips) that would be engaging to you while adhering to safe social-

distancing practices. We are open to any of your suggestions as well. Feel free to join us Monday night. There will be an opportunity during the meeting for you to offer such suggestions.

I remind you all that now is the time to get out and rockhound as individuals and families in the inland areas before peak seasonal heat becomes a limiting factor. Mud should no longer be an issue and provided you don't rockhound during a heat wave like we experienced the last week of May, you should have a nice time. Big Sandy Wildfire Area near San Miguel, Shell Creek roadcut, Clear Creek between Coalinga and King City and other such places are great this time of year but soon will be inhospitably hot. Be sure to take plenty of water and be on the lookout for rattlesnakes!

- Kim Noyes

Photo by Club member Kathy Clarke



Jr Rockhound Fossils Badge

We have one last item left in order to complete the requirements for the badge.

Here is the assignment:

1. What is the name of the California state fossil.
2. What is its scientific name?
3. Give a description of the animal and what is its key feature (a picture is OK).
4. In what geologic time period did the animal live.
5. Where is the location of the place where the fossil remains are found?

The Juniors can email me the results at mccabewest@aol.com or bring a summary paper to the next time we have a meeting.

Thanks, John McCabe



Image: Joshua Stevens (NASA)

NEW LAKE IN KILAUEA VOLCANO LARGER THAN 5-FOOTBALL FIELDS

NASA has released images that document the growth of a water lake inside a huge crater within Hawaii's Kilauea volcano.

The lake started to form in the lowest part of the Halema'uma'u crater in July 2019 and has been rising steadily ever since, according to the space agency. This was the first time in recorded history that a water pond had appeared in Halema'uma'u.

Learn more: <http://www.geologyin.com/2020/05/new-lake-larger-than-5-football-fields.html>

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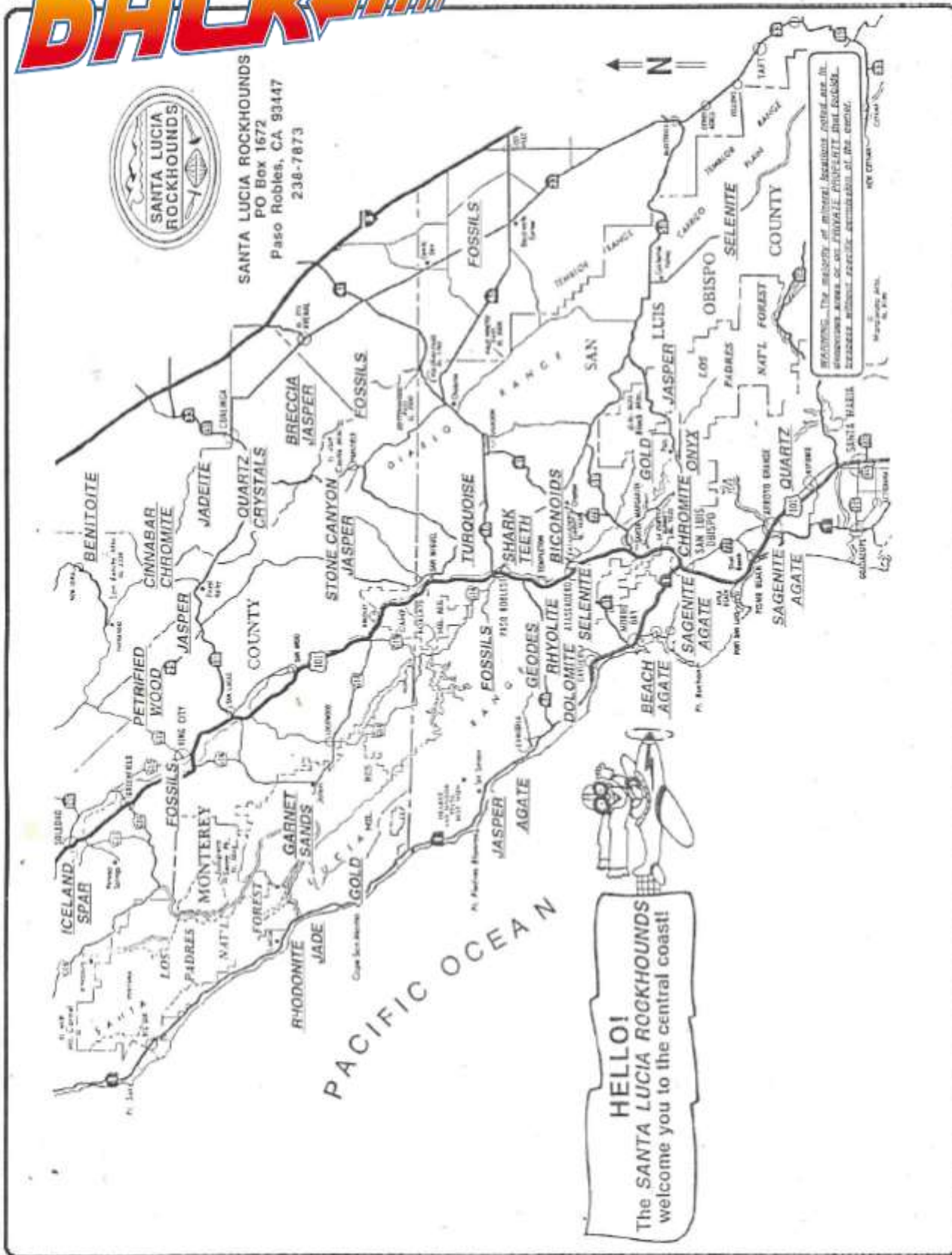
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FLASH BACK



Santa Lucia Rockhounds published this map of generalized rock, fossil and mineral locations many years ago. It is not intended to be a guide, as many of the locations are on private property or hard to access, but it can give one an idea of the various materials to be found in our area and can form a basis for further research on local rock hunting locations. The September 2015 Ore-Cutts also has an article about 20 or so locations on the Central Coast where different rock types can be found: omsinc.org/Bulletins. Submitted by Wayne Mills

Rest in Peace



**Doren
Strane**

It is with heaviness of heart that I reluctantly must announce that we have lost yet another member/former member of our rockhounding family due to an accident while doing the thing we do. Doren Strane died In April at Ant Hill a.k.a. Hangglider Hill, north-east of Bakersfield.

He was digging into a legendary Miocene fossil deposit many of us have visited and done similar things at in the past. In fact, about a dozen years ago many members of our Club participated in a southern region CFMS field trip to this very spot which yours truly was part of as well.

Doren gave his all to our Club for a number of years being co-president with past-president Mary Caperone and helping out with our gem & mineral show in the first years it moved to the Paso Robles Event Center from the Pioneer Park. He was of indispensable service to our Club and rock show during the two to three previous administrations (Michael Judy and Tina Clark and initially Mary Caperone, too).

He was an old soul, filled with wisdom and life experience and all the while temperamentally smooth as silk. Yet he looked a decade younger than his actual age. He was one of the few people in our club with extensive knowledge of and interest in fossils and was a master fossil collector on par with our very own Jason Martines, Aaron Miller, and Chris Driesbach.

Between this and losing Ron Rusconi last January, also while rockhounding not 100 miles away from this tragedy, and also dealing with COVID-19 pandemic, it makes this a very rough stretch for many of us. **Please hang in there and hold onto each other.** We will all get through this but please be extra careful when out rockhounding in honor of Ron and Doren's memory. Step back and think about where you are, what you are doing, what are the things that can go wrong, and what you will do to mitigate those hazards.

- Kim Noyes, President

Skip Colflesh

Many of you probably never met Skip Colflesh. He joined our club just last year, the same year he moved to Atascadero from Pennsylvania with his wife Kimberly. I had the privilege of meeting him and talking with him on a number of occasions.

He was always busy with the upheaval of moving his life out to the Golden State, a life which included an impressive (and published) mineral collection, so expansive that Skip was having a small museum structure built on his property to house just part of it.

Skip passed away at home with his wife by his side on April 5th. For the short time I knew Skip he was extremely energetic and driven, be it to go out rockhounding for rare Aragonite crystals locally in the Santa Lucia Mountains or to plan selling some of his mineral collection in our show last month and split the profits with our club. Skip was a top-tier jewelry artist to go along with his world-class mineral collecting. He was eager to share his knowledge and drive with anybody who would take the time to listen to him and work with him.

I feel a great sense of loss for what might have been for me personally, for our club and for the local rockhounding/lapidary arts/jewelry-making communities had we all just been given just a few years with him here. Skip was another one-of-a-kind American original like the late Ron Rusconi and Doren Strane. These are the types of people who make our rockhounding hobby so much fun and so engaging.

- Kim Noyes, President

This meeting was conducted via the Zoom application at 7:02pm. It was decided that we would try this method of keeping in touch during this time of quarantine.

Present: Kim Noyes, President; Lisa King, Vice President; Tina Clark, Past President; Don Barton, VP Communications; Tina Russell, Treasurer; Jacque Hughes, Secretary.

Began meeting with touching base with all participants to see how everyone is handling the quarantine. Everyone seems to be dealing with our new "normal" as best they can. Members updated the board on the health of several members and the sad news of our recent loss of our new club member, Skip Colflesh.

Treasurer Report: Tina Russell has returned checks to 10 ven-

dors that had reserved their spot for the gem and mineral show. Tax paperwork requiring updating board members information was received. Tina will complete her portion of the form and send to both Kim and Jacque to complete their portions. Apparently, it has not been updated for a few years.

Communications Report:

Don stated that the website show and tell had only had a few photos so far. Kim has pictures he will submit. The webmaster has arranged for another company to take over if for some reason he is unable to continue. Don Huntington contacted Don Barton regarding his not receiving several newsletters. Don Barton contacted NCI (the company that sends out the newsletters) and they were unaware why these were not received, but they did

resend the February and March newsletters and Don H. was impressed that they were in color. Tina Clark's understanding is that the printed and mailed newsletter should be in black and white, as we are not paying for color.

As long as we are on quarantine, the board agreed that we should continue to utilize Zoom for our meetings. This was our practice run and everyone agreed that it went quite well. We will have our next board meeting on May 4th at 7pm, again utilizing Zoom and we hope to have a Zoom presentation/program on May 18th for the general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

**RARE BLUE SKARN
FOUND IN EASTERN SIBERIA**



Blue diopside skarn. Photo: James St. John

Skarns are hard, coarse-grained metamorphic rocks that form by a process called metasomatism. Skarns tend to be rich in calcium-magnesium-iron-manganese-aluminum silicate minerals, which are also referred to as calc-silicate minerals. These minerals form as a result of alteration which occurs when hydrothermal fluids interact with a protolith of either igneous or sedimentary origin.

A skarn-type mineralogy may be formed during regional or contact metamorphism and from a variety of metasomatic processes involving a great variety of fluids. A skarn is formed by a variety of metasomatic processes during metamorphism between two adjacent lithologic units. Skarn can form in almost any lithology type such as shale, granite and basalt but the majority of skarns are found in lithology containing a limestone or a dolomite.

Continue reading at:
<http://www.geologyin.com/2020/05/rare-blue-skarn.html>



P.O. Box 1672

Paso Robles, CA 93447

THE MOST EXPENSIVE ROUGH EMERALD IN THE WORLD

The stone was originally found in October 2018, by the Gemfields geologist Debapriya Rakshit and veteran emerald miner Richard Kapeta at the Kagem open mine in Zambia.

The emerald is now known as The Inkalamu, aka The Lion Emerald (in the local Bemba language), 5,655 carats of shiny green magic.

Source: <https://www.naina.co/2019/06/the-most-expensive-rough-emerald-in-the-world-inkalamu/>