

Rockonteur

Volume 30, Issue 10

November 2020



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!

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NOTE FROM EDITOR

We need your input to make this newsletter relevant and interesting. Please submit articles, photos to the editor.



Santa Lucia Rockhounds An All-American Club Best Rock and Mineral Club in North America! By Mark Nelson, SLR Historian

The All American Club Award was established to encourage clubs to share their activities and expertise with other clubs within their respective regions (the California Federation, in our case) and with the clubs of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. This award was created by the seven regional federations and the AFMS in 1967. It was also meant to provide an organized approach to a historical record of a club's activities and provide a means for national recognition of these exceptional clubs!

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Santa Lucia Rockhounds 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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CALLING ALL PARENTS AND JUNIOR ROCKHOUDS!

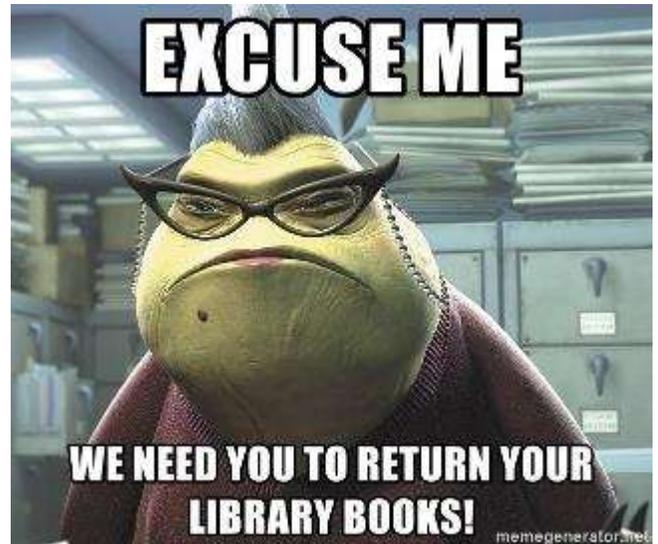
With COVID, graduation of many Juniors to full-fledged Rockhounds and dwindling of attendance, we have to basically start from scratch. Here's some questions for you:

We need to know if you have children, or know of some, that are interested in participating in the Juniors program. To learn about the program: www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Meetings will be held via Zoom until State and County COVID-19 guidelines allows for in-person meetings.

We are also proposing to change meeting time from 7-8:30pm to 6-7pm, as we know it's hard to meet so late during a school night. We're also open to other suggestions.

Please email responses to amyphillips18@hotmail.com and runrungran-ny@gmail.com.



Ha, ha! Seriously, if you have any materials checked out from the club library, could you please contact me to arrange to get them returned? I can meet you somewhere, or pick them up at your house, or whatever works for each of us. I know that they can be put aside and forgotten during this stressful time and can easily get lost. Please contact me at 805-434-2708 or bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com.

Thanks! Barbara Bilyeu, Librarian

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that this strange and troubled year is nearing its conclusion but here we are in its second-to-last month with the Holidays looming. Given how this year has unfolded, it feels comforting to look forward to the familiarity of the holiday traditions, even if they, too, are altered due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Despite all the disruption of our lives and emotions this year, it is important to be thankful for the things we still have and things we acquired in the midst of the current troubles. Our attitude determines our altitude. Thankfulness and gratitude make us happier creatures which in turn makes us healthier people for other people to be around. We help them and ourselves equally alike. Thus ends my Thanksgiving sermonette.

This year our club lost some beloved members, our rock and gem show in April, our annual BBQ in September, our tailgater in November, and we will lose our Christmas Party in December. On the upshot, we had two bright lights that gave us enjoyment and satisfaction: Amy Phillips continued to edit and publish our beautiful newsletter. Our club yearbook, edited and published by Mark Nelson, received both statewide and national recognition as the very best. By this measure, our club was determined to be the best

rockhounding club in the entire state of California and even in the entire United States.

A somewhat unexpected development, partly caused by pandemic and quarantine, and partly unrelated, was the extraordinary number and quality of home-based rock sales across the Central Coast in 2020. Whatever this trend is, it seems to have started with the Grizzell Estate Sale in October 2019 and continued into this year with the various sales by Lori Nelson, the Hicks Family sales, David Nelson, Aaron Miller, and Rich Smithen. This run of rock sales afforded any level of collector or artisan many opportunities to upgrade their collection or inventory.

Turning to the future, the Santa Lucia Rockhounds have seated a full governing board for 2021 thanks to your voting participation via email in which we achieved a quorum so thank you! I thank the 2020 governing board for being flexible and strong and working together through the crazy muddle that was 2020 and making my presidency as enjoyable as it was which it not always was as you might imagine. See you all in 2021 which I hope will be a better year all around!

Kim Noyes

Congrats to the new 2021-2022 board members

President
Lisa King

Senior
Director
Laurie Wylie

VPs Member-
ship
Kathy Clarke
Assisted by
Karen Hilchey

VP Education
Alice Alvarado

VP
Communications
Don Barton

Secretary
Jacque Hughes

Treasurer
Tina Russell

Junior Director
Caleb Willis

Past President
Kim Noyes

There are two vacancies. If interested,
Email for details: srockhounds@gmail.com

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Coordinator
Amy Phillips

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Coordinator
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Chair
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MESSAGE FROM RICHARD SMITHEN:

My grandson and Club member Slayde Franklin, had his thyroid and 15 lymph-nodes removed due to cancer. He is doing well and back into high school on his computer at home. His treatments will continue at Stanford, and we ask you to please keep him in your prayers. Many thanks to all Club members with their prayers about my grandson.

Each club seeking to be recognized as an All American Club compiles a report of its activities, called a Yearbook. It can be either paper and printed, or digital. The Award focuses on the efforts of each club to be a good neighbor, support other clubs and government initiatives and provide an avenue of learning and growth for its members – among other things. Each report, or Yearbook, is read and judged for completeness and quality, as well as the inclusion of those activities thought to make a well-rounded club. This is not a competition between clubs, but rather a competition of each club against a 'national standard', established by a committee of judges and regional chairmen.

The Award is broken into two categories: large clubs (100 members or more) and small clubs (less than 100 members). Junior clubs with five or more members can also submit entries. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are given, based on a point-count system.

The Santa Lucia Rockhounds is an exceptional club, and we are active in the areas that are considered to be important in maintaining a healthy and thriving club. I compiled our first Yearbook at the end of 2018, reflecting our activities that year. Based upon that report, we were judged to be the best rock and mineral club in California!

This year I compiled a Yearbook that reflected our activities of 2019. Not only were we selected as the best club in the California Federation, but we were named the #1 rock and mineral club in North America by the American Federation! Here are some of the things that we did that helped us win:

Service to our Members – attendance at monthly board and program meetings; door prizes; speaker programs; participation in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program and a good Juniors program with meetings; social events like our picnic and holiday dinner; our Annual Show with dealers, demonstrations and displays put on by our members for which we compete for the public to judge; our Library, Website and Yearbook Committees; our Rockhound Of The Year program; our field trips; the exhibit at the Pioneer Museum; our Facebook page; the periodic workshops and special instruction for our junior members; the Traveling Displays that we have available for the community.

Publicity – the quality our bulletin, the Rockonteur, thanks to editor Amy Phillips; information about meetings and "how-to" workshops posted on our website and Facebook page and on social media sites; Show flyers posted in public places, such as at hotels, motels, nurseries, senior centers, libraries, coffee shops, wineries and other businesses, as well as on the lawns of our members and their families and friends!; the show in-

formation published in local media such as Paso Magazine (article by Meagan Freiburg), Journal Plus (two page piece on club member Wayne Mills highlighting his role as the Rock Doctor for the show), Access Publishing - (online newspaper Paso Robles & Atascadero), the press release published as an article in the Paso Press & Atascadero News by Liz Enriquez-Phillips, with pictures; Ads in the local media and newspapers; our show ads on TV/radio/web.

Support for our regional federation, the AFMS and other clubs – Members served in the California Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members (Linda Nelson was the chair of the CFMS Financial Advisory Committee, Mark Nelson was chair of the Safety Committee and the Insurance Committee; At the AFMS level, Mark Nelson was the chair of the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee; members attending a Federation convention or show (we listed the shows at which our members attended); Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds (we listed support for the AFMS: Scholarship fund and the CFMS Endowment fund); Other support for regional federations (we listed our members who spoke at other federation conventions and club meetings); our Bulletin Editor is a member of SCRIBE (the national association of rock and mineral club bulletin editors); we have a member who served as a judge for the Rocky Mountain federation bulletin editor's contest.

Community Relations – Our members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools, as Wayne Mills did to Sanchez Elementary School, William Rice Elementary School and Lakeview Junior High School in Santa Maria and John Muir Elementary School in Merced. Our members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups, such as when Ernie Perlich & John McCabe gave a "Rock Talk" at the Atascadero Library and when we instructed in a free jewelry art group the Colony Park Community Center. Our ongoing display in a room at the Paso Robles Pioneer Museum is one of the premier exhibits at that popular visitor and educational destination! We participate in interacting with adult and student visitors at the display for presentations during special group visits such as Pioneer Day! Wayne Mills was a speaker about how to identify rocks and minerals at the meeting of the Kiwanis Club! Adria Beaman donated to Grover Elementary School. The club created a \$1,000 college scholarship for a deserving school student this year! Sarah Beaman raised funds and donated scholarships to the Fort Hope Project! The Clark Family donated to Vineyard Elementary School! Our members were active in local civic affairs! Adria Beaman is active on the Grover Heights PTA. For the last 8 years she has donated supplies to the Grover Heights School.

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Charlie Beaman, Junior Member, is active on the Grover Heights School Robotics Team. Sarah Beaman, Junior Member, (age 12) is active on the Grover Heights School Robotics Team and received special recognition for her civic activities to help under-privileged children.

Barbara Bilyeu is the librarian at the research library of the Rio-Caledonia Adobe in San Miguel and a local history volunteer at the Paso Robles City Library. Tina Clark is the Santa Lucia Rockhounds Treasurer and Rock Show Co-Chair. She is also active with the Templeton Instrumental Music Boosters Association, the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony, the Templeton Community Library Association and is the Landscape Committee Co-Chair of the Vineyard Estates Homeowners Association.

Wayne Mills is active in the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, Central Coast Treasure Hunters Association, and San Luis Obispo Archaeological Society. Linda Nelson is a member of the board of directors of the San Dimas Historical Society. Secretary/Treasurer of the California Barbed Wire Collectors Association. Treasurer of the Antique Barbed Wire Society and Librarian of the Antique Barbed Wire Society's national library in LaCrosse, Kansas. Mark Nelson is a past president of the San Dimas Chamber of Commerce, member of the San Dimas Historical Society, a San Dimas Citizen Of The Year, a member of the San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team, the American Society of Testing & Standards Committee on Search and Rescue and president of the California Barbed Wire Collectors Association which began here in Paso Robles!

Government Relations – Our members commented on government agency proposals, contacted and wrote letters to congressional/elected representatives regarding legislation affecting access and collecting sites and supported access/collecting lobbying organizations like ALAA.

Year In Retrospect – We summarized our year with photos of our activities and fun! I expect that the club will post a copy of the yearbook on the website and make it available during upcoming club meetings. In the final review, it was thanks to the efforts of every member that we won the highest award in North America!

You Can Help! – Send in photos of club activities, your rockhound vacations, field trips, civic volunteering and Juniors activities. Write letters to our elected and appointed representatives in support of the Earth Science that is lapidary and mineral collecting. Document your community activities! Send material to me at mnelsonair@aol.com.

ROCKS & MINERALS NEWS



Yunan province, China. Photo by Zhang Yuan.

A new study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, reveals a mechanism that may contribute to the formation of sharply pointed rock spires in striking landforms called stone forests. <http://www.sci-news.com/othersciences/geophysics/stone-forests-08828.html>

Island-building in Southeast Asia created Earth's northern ice sheets. Over 15 million years, weathering rocks reduced carbon dioxide levels and cooled Earth. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200924141603.htm>

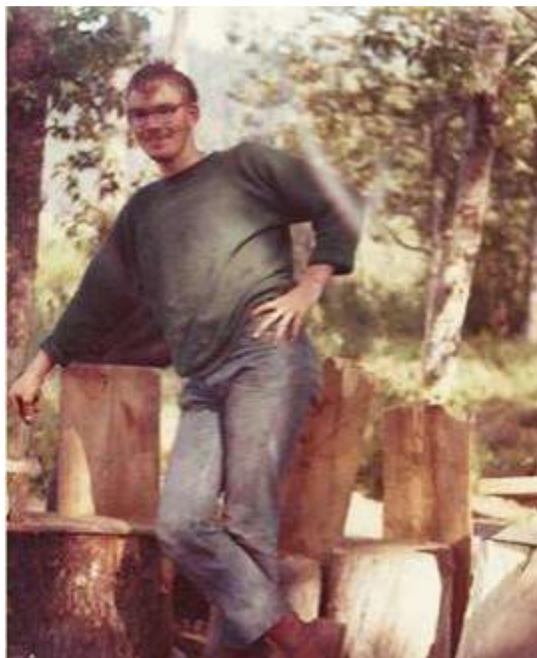
Superheated rocks deep underground help explain earthquake patterns. A study by the University of Southern California in collaboration with the China Earthquake Administration are significant because they help advance the long-term goal of understanding how and where earthquakes are likely to occur, along with the forces that trigger temblors. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200904163326.htm>

Tree rings may hold clues to impacts of distant supernovas on Earth. Massive explosions of energy happening thousands of light-years from Earth may have left traces in our planet's biology and geology, according to new research. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/11/201111144400.htm>



Photo from: stock.adobe.com

Rockhounds Out & About



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE - MY ALASKAN ADVENTURE

Story and photos by Wayne Mills

During my senior year in High School, my English teacher tasked us with writing a sonnet. I thought about the project a few times during the next couple of weeks, but was surprised when I walked into class one day and the teacher said “your sonnets are due at the end of the period.” So I scribbled out my poem during class and turned it in on time. A week or so later, the teacher handed the assignment back and asked me to type it up for the National Poetry Anthology. About a month later, the poem was named one of two “Special Mention” poems from our school in that contest. The poem read:

ON A DESERTED COAST

The sea pounds and thunders on the coast
And from dark, obscure cliffs the seagulls screech
As inward pounds the ageless host
Reaching for driftwood that lies on the beach.
As each time outward rolls the tide it leaves behind
A sample of the sea in many pools
And overhead a cool, prevailing breeze
Blows gently over Nature’s precious jewels.
The sea pounds upon this ancient shore
As it will when we are alive no more.

When my parents asked me what I wanted for my Senior Summer, I said: “I want to go to Alaska and be a commercial fisherman with Uncle Mel (my mother’s younger brother). And I want to hitchhike up the Al Can Highway. My mother’s response was “you’ll fly.”

So in early August 1963, I arrived at the Anchorage Airport. It

was quite a lot more primitive than Los Angeles International Airport that I had departed from. After a few days in Seward, my uncle, my younger cousin Dennis and I headed for Seldovia, the Tuxedni Channel and Uncle Mel’s 43-foot drift-netter, the PG 73.

We loaded our gear on board, and set out for the fishing grounds. On the first night, a nice little storm blew-up and I was awakened by my uncle about two in the morning to steer the boat! THAT was a challenge!

After a couple of weeks on the water, one day my uncle told me to hop in the skiff, and we headed to a place on the western shore of the channel where he said I might be able to find some fossils. The rocky shore was aptly called “Fossil Point.” When I hopped out of the boat, Uncle Mel said “I’ll be back to get you in about an hour.” I tried not to think too much about the stories he had told me about encountering bears in the wilderness as I started to look around.

It did not take me long to realize that this place was a lot like what I had described in the poem that I wrote earlier that year. And, I started to find pieces of fossils—the first fossils that I had ever collected in person. This location is Triassic Age, about 176-161 million years ago, during the age of the dinosaurs. Only this location is fossilized marine sediments, and the primary fossils were ammonites. Pictured on the left are two of the three fossils I collected. I can’t find the third one, a 3” pen shell fossil.

Oh, and we caught lots of salmon, went camping with the Boy Scouts, and I fell in love with a local merchant’s daughter who I was never introduced to, and who I never saw again. What a memorable summer!

Rockhounds Out & About

COOPER RIVER, CHARLESTON, SC

Story and photos by Theodore Gray

Various Formations: Pleistocene, Oligocene, Pliocene and Miocene

The Cooper River cuts through the South Carolina low country which has been subjected to the countless cycles of marine intrusion and recession. The fossils erode out of the layers in the banks and accumulate on the bottom of the river. Most people come here in search of the elusive Megalodon. The only legal way to recover the fossils is to SCUBA dive in the tannin stained dark waters which are heavily influenced by the twice daily tides. A "Hobby License" from the state is required and only surface collecting is permitted. Unless you are a local with a suitable boat, it is necessary to work with one of the several charter captains who serve the trade.

The Cooper River drains the coastal cypress swamps so the water is heavily infused with tannins. The tannins darken the water which is known as "black water". The tidal influence is substantial. When the typical 3 to 5 foot tide is not at a high or low ebb, then the current will be so strong as to make it impossible to control your position in order to see fossils on the bottom. There is also a significant danger of being swept away from the dive boat and out to sea. Proper planning of the dive schedule is imperative and a very good reason to select a competent charter captain.

The river is home to an abundance of wild life. It is common to see porpoises, fishing eagles, jumping fish and a few alligators. While diving, you can expect to encounter catfish, crabs flounders and shrimp. Although the alligators are around, there is no historical accounts of them attacking divers.

The river bottom has widely varying topography, including lots of sand dunes, sunken trees, bare hard pan, mud balls and gravel beds. The fossils erode out of the banks and mostly collect in the gravel beds. The dive captain knows generally where the gravel beds are located so if you can drop into a gravel bed, you are likely to find some fossils. There are lots of bone fragments, teeth and other marine and terrestrial animal remains. However, 90% of the sharks teeth are worn and broken so a good condition shark tooth is not easy to find. Bone fragments are common but are also usually river worn by the movement associated with the cyclical tidal currents.

CONTINUED READING ABOUT TED'S ADVENTURE AND SEE ALL THE PHOTOS ON HIS WEBSITE:

http://nautiloid.net/fossils/sites/charleston/river_5.html

Send info and photos of our adventure to the newsletter editor : amyphillips18@hotmail.com



Above: Results of 5 Days of Diving. Once you get the hang of it, you will find fossils. This is my haul from a recent 5 day trip, three dives per day.

Below: The goal for most people who come here is to go home with a nice big C. megalodon tooth. It took me three trips and 8 days of diving to finally find a nice big one.



PRESENT: Kim Noyes, President; Lisa King, Senior Director; Tina Russell, Treasurer; Don Barton, VP Communications; and Jacque Hughes, Secretary.

Kim Noyes called the board meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom app. A motion was made by Don Barton to accept last month's board meeting minutes, with Kim Noyes seconding the motion. Minutes approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT: WE ROCK! We were awarded the Best Rock and Mineral Club in North America! Thank you to Mark Nelson for all his hard work. We are having a good membership response and library books that were borrowed are being returned. Kim is following up with the fairgrounds staff regarding a possible outdoor club show next year. The slate of officers for next year has been voted on and accepted without opposition. The new senior director will be Laurie Wylie and the VP of Education is Alice Rodriguez.

SENIOR DIRECTOR REPORT: Lisa King stated that she has \$10 of club money from the sale of adhesive and other miscellaneous grits (from a club Donation) to Cliff Bruin, and will be sending a check to the PO Box for Tina Russell to deposit.

TREASURER REPORT: Balances of the CD and checking account were reported. Two checks are outstanding and have not been cashed in: one to Tina Clark for the Zoom app and one to the webmaster.

We currently have two web domains, the slrock-hounds.org and the slrock-hounds.com, though only the .org is in use. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would keep both @ \$19 per year for each domain to prevent other people from using it.

Discussed an issue with the state regarding our nonprofit status. A previous email has gotten no response, so that may be sent again. Sending by registered mail may be another possible option.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Kathy Clarke was unable to attend but sent an email reporting that a total of 54 members have renewed so far.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Don Barton continues to follow-up to make sure all members are receiving their newsletters and keeping the website up with current events.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM.



2021 CFMS BULLETIN CONTEST

There are 11 categories we can submit entries to showcase our Club and individual skills such as adult and junior articles or poetry. More info: www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm. Contact our Club Communications VP for a consolidated Club entry: dsbarton@charter.net.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Did you know that our website has a resources page full of links to information that can help you learn about new skills or improve existing ones? Check it out!



P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447

CITRINE

Citrine was once the Rodney Dangerfield of the gem world. Due to its abundance, it would "get no respect," as it were. In recent decades, this perception has changed, partly because earth-tone jewelry has come into vogue. Home shopping networks have also marketed the various shades of citrine aggressively, with catchy adjectives like "butterscotch" and "whiskey."

Apparently, this has worked. Citrine is now a modern alternative birthstone for November. Mining actually yields very little citrine. The vast majority of citrine on the market is produced by heating smoky quartz (which produces light to medium yellows) and amethyst (which produces stronger yellows and orange-red to orangey brown shades). Natural stones usually occur in pale yellow colors, often with smoky tones. *Cover photo and info from: <https://www.gemsociety.org/article/citrine-jewelry-gemstone-information/>*