BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 71 Number 9, October 2023

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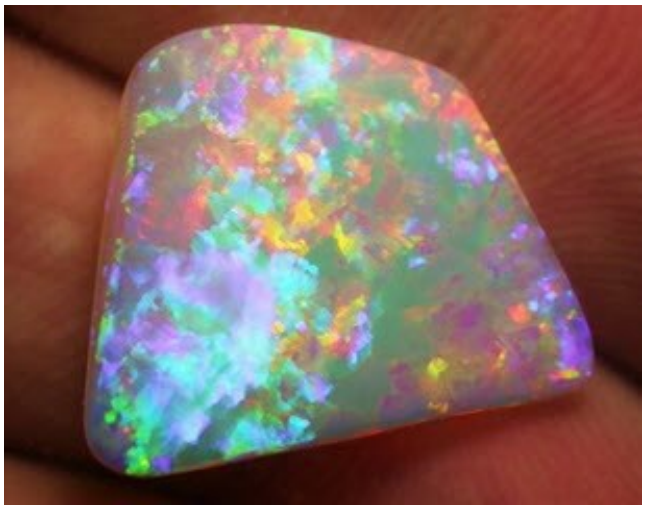
The Opal Issue



Events

October 9 at 7pm: Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Semi-annual Auction

Clayton Community Library

6125 Clayton Rd, Clayton 94517, about 1.5 hours from Campbell

October 24: General Membership Meeting will feature something about **Opals**. The Bragging Rights theme is **"Something You Made"**.

October 26: Board Meeting on Zoom.

November 28: General Membership Meeting will feature a **Silent Auction**.

November 30: Board Meeting on Zoom.

See Page 3 for Field Trip Information.

Editor's Message

At our September general meeting, **Stephen May** told us about his August rock hunting trip to Davis Creek. Photos of some of the great finds he and **Cathy** made are included in Member Displays.

Don't forget that the yearly elections are coming up! Jobs that need to be filled are: President; Vice President; and Bragging Rights.

Bruce Poehlman, **Stephen May** and **Michele Smith** volunteered to join the Nominating Committee.

Alan Achor has been handling Bragging Rights for more than 5 years and wants to retire. It is a relatively easy job, thinking of a theme, receiving the photos, and tallying the votes. If you are interested, please let the Nominating Committee know.

I decided to make this an Opal Issue because opal is the birthstone for October, and I think opals are beautiful. Our member **Phil Kesten** offered an essay on Opal from his upcoming book, and I took advantage of a reciprocal arrangement with the American Opal Society to republish Opal in Myths and Legends from The Opal Express, August 2023, issue.

Please consider contributing anything from a "how-to", "my favorite thing", or whatever you think others would find interesting for the *Breccia*. Rock related photos are also appreciated. The deadline for submissions is the Sunday after the General Meeting.

Deb Runyan, Breccia Editor

Rockhounds of the Month

Our rockhounds of the month are **Cesar and Lucy Nunez**. Amazing snack provision! Happy Birthday Lucy!

Sunshine

Margo and Dave Mosher are spending a month in Europe!

Jo Borucki is home, recovering from her knee replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery. Your editor especially hopes she will be able to create more puzzles for the *Breccia* soon!

If you know of anyone needing some sunshine in their lives, please email **Margo Mosher at margo-mosher@yahoo.com**.

Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

Oct 14—15, Saturday—Sunday: Royal Peacock Opal Mine, Denio, NV. - 10-hour drive.
A Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society Members Only dig.
Precious Opal, Fluorescent Minerals, Petrified Wood.
To join FRLMS: https://www.featherriverrocks.org/membership-application/

October 14-15, Saturday—Sunday: Markleeville, CA - 4 hour drive.
Quartz Crystals in Rhyolite, Silver Ore, Sulfur Crystals, Agate and Jasper.
Sponsored by Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: John Doleman (530) 272-3752 Email: john95670@yahoo.com
Contact before the end of September.

October 21, Saturday: Kennedy Mine, Jackson, CA - 2.5 hour drive.
Mine Tour.
Sponsored by Calavaras Gem & Mineral Society
Contact: Bob Young (530) 545-0932, Home (209) 728-8454, Email: ryoung1738@aol.com
RSVP so the leader can let the Mine know in case they need more than one tour guide.

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

Click on the blue area of whatever site you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: https://www.scvgms.org/

Note: After you click on the above link, if you want to see the *Breccia* and other news items, scroll down and click on “Download”, shown under the Newsletter option.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS): https://www.amfed.org

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS): https://www.cfmsinc.org/

To access the news from the **American Lands Access Association**: www.amlands.org

SCVGMS Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety

2023 Founders' Day Picnic

September 16th was a beautiful day for a picnic. It stayed comfortably cool the whole time!

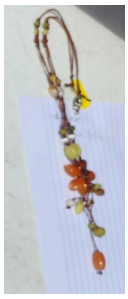
Jim Herbold coordinated the whole thing, arranging for the meats, drinks and potluck items to be there. **Stephen May** smoked the Tri tips for barbequing. Everyone brought salads, sides, breads, and desserts. Everyone was stuffed and there were left-overs, too.

Stephen and Alan May ran the Bingo games. Everyone won several times and took home lots of interesting specimens.

The Silent Auction items filled a table.

I was so busy talking and eating that I only took pictures of the auction items.

Deb Runyan



Bragging Rights

We did not have Bragging Rights during the September meeting, so next month's Bragging Rights theme is still **"Something You Made".**

Please email a photo of your treasure to **Alan Achor** by 4:00PM on Monday, **October 23** to have it included in the contest. Alan's email address is kayakbb7@gmail.com.

Alan Achor—Bragging Rights Chairman

Improbable Rock Story

The Sounds of Trees When Hit by Rocks Thrown by Chimps

January 29, 2020

Marc Abrahams

What are the sounds that come from trees when those trees are hit by rocks thrown by chimpanzees? A new study addresses that question:

"Chimpanzees use tree species with a resonant timbre for accumulative stone throwing {https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rsbl/2019/15/12}," Ammie K. Kalan, Eleonora Carmignani, Richard Kronland-Martinet, Sølvi Ystad, Jacques Chatron and Mitsuko Aramaki, Biology Letters, 18 December 2019, Article ID:20190747.

The authors, at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany, and Aix Marseille University, France, explain:

"We conducted field experiments to test whether impact sounds produced by throwing rocks at trees varied according to the tree's properties. Specifically, we compared impact sounds of AST [accumulative stone throwing] and non-AST tree species. We measured three acoustic descriptors related to intrinsic timbre quality, and found that AST tree species produced impact sounds that were less damped, with spectral energy concentrated at lower frequencies compared to non-AST tree species. Buttress roots in particular produced timbres with low-frequency energy (low spectral centroid) and slower signal onset (longer attack time). In summary, chimpanzees use tree species capable of producing more resonant sounds for AST compared to other tree species available."

They touch on the question of whether this be music:

"Studies on how variation in the sound-production properties of different tree species might affect animal behaviour are lacking despite observations of chimpanzees and palm cockatoos drumming on trees. In comparison, humans fashion a variety of wooden musical instruments whereby the quality of sound for each instrument is dependent upon the intrinsic sound properties of the tree species used, otherwise referred to as 'timbre'. In particular, it has been shown that mechanical properties of wood species such as internal friction, density and the longitudinal modulus of elasticity are important aspects that instrument makers take into account when selecting tree species."

With permission from Marc Abrams - https://improbable.com/2020/01/29/the-sounds-of-trees-when-hit-by-rocks-thrown-by-chimps/

Member Displays

Bob Kout brought his large Mariposite.

Stephen May showed and talked about some of the obsidian he and **Cathy** gathered at Davis Creek on August 25th and 26th. Below are close-up photos, in sunlight, of some of the fantastic colors of obsidian that they found.

Please email a photo of the items that you wish to display to Michele Smith by the Sunday before the general meeting, so that the people who attend the meeting on Zoom rather than in person can view your items. **Please bring your items with you to the Cabana Club, if you are attending the meeting.**

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, or anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who are attending. Show off what you love, so that we can enjoy it with you.

Federation Report (Karen Welder): ALAA

On August 18, 2023 the Bureau of Land Management begins a 90-day public comment period for the Rock Springs Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement covering 3.6 million acres of public lands and 3.7 million acres of Federal mineral estate in portions of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette and Fremont counties in southwest Wyoming. The comment period closes Nov. 16, 2023.

Information on Shows for 2023

October 14-15, 2023 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society
Redwood City Community Activities Building
1400 Rosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA
Hours: 10—5
Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net
Website:
https://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

October 21-22, 2023 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church
22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
Hours: 10-5
Contact: whrc@rockchppers.org
Website: www.rockchippers.org/

October 21-22, 2023 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: 10-5
Contact: (707) 849-9551,
jolene4srmgs@gmail.com
Website: http://srmgs.org

October 28-29 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center/Point Loma Nazerene University
2660 Lanir, San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Sat. 10—5, Sun. 10—4
Contact: luannz@att.net
Website: https://sdmg.org

October 28-29, 2023 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center
300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868
Hours: Sat. 10—6, Sun. 10—5
Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959,
info@opalsociety.org
Website: http://www.opalsociety.org/

October 28-29, 2023 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Masonic Center
6151 H St., Sacramento, CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 662-5819,
webadmin@sacrementomineralsociety.org
Website: http://www.sacgemshow.com

November 4, 2023 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
Rock and Craft Show
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956,
berylman50@aol.com

November 4-5, 2023 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mike@diablorocks.com
Website: https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/

November 4-5, 2023 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Contact: (760) 375-7905,
iwgmjfrocks@gmail.com

November 18-19, 2023 – Lakeside, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
12584 Mapleview St., Lakeside, CA 92040
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (619) 277-4981, ecvgms@gmail.com
Website: https://www.ecvgms.org/

Opal

Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D., Department of Physics, Santa Clara University

You are, perhaps, a collector of rocks, minerals, and crystals. Or you are, perhaps, just interested in stones. You might have a display case devoted to rocks, or perhaps just a few crystals on a shelf in your living room. You might make regular pilgrimages to a nearby rock store or to the annual rock show at your local fairgrounds. Or you might just pick an interesting rock up off the ground on an afternoon walk. Wherever you land on this spectrum… a book on rocks could be for you. This essay on opals is one of more than seventy essays in my soon-to-be-published book on rocks, minerals, and crystals.

Opal

Got rocks in your pocket? You might, and although you probably don't have a specimen of opal in your pocket, you might be wearing some opal set into jewelry. Specimens of opal are often polished and set into pendants and earrings. And that shouldn't surprise you: a high-quality opal (usually referred to as a "precious opal") is most attractive, displaying colors that change and dance as the rock moves.

To understand opal, we first need to turn to some physics. Physics that makes itself known in precious opals, but physics that also shows up in many places in our world. This is the physics that governs how light passes through a narrow slit, or a set of narrow slits.

When light passes near an opaque boundary, such as the boundary at the edge of an opening in an otherwise opaque object, it comes out at an angle that is different from the angle at which it entered. We are not, however, usually aware of this – when the opening is wide, as in Fig. 1a., it is hard to observe this phenomenon, known as diffraction. When the opening is narrow, however (as in Fig. 1b.), the diffraction of the wave is both clear and in a distinct pattern. The size of the opening needs to be about the same as the distance between successive crests in the light wave for this to occur.

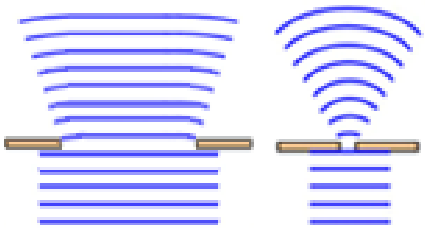


Fig. 1a. A wave passing through a wide opening diffracts in a way that is hard to observe.

Fig. 1b. A wave passing through a narrow opening clearly diffracts as it passes the edges of the opening.

Fig. 1a. Made by prk Fig. 1b. Made by prk

What if there are two openings in an otherwise solid object? Both will produce a wave pattern like the one in Fig. 1b., but if the openings are close together, the waves overlap in a curious way. Fig. 2. shows a wave passing through two openings that are close together; the straight blue lines mark locations where the two diffracted waves reinforce each other as they overlap, that is, as they interfere with each other. A physicist would say that the two waves constructively interfere at these locations.

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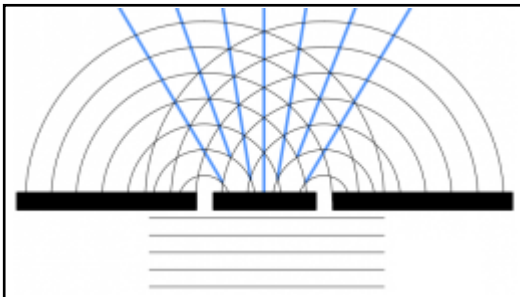

Fig. 2.

Fig. 2. The interference pattern formed when a wave passes through two nearby openings.

Fig. 2. From https://nustem.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Double-slit-diffraction-diagram-300x275.png

When two sound waves constructively interfere, the result is a sound much louder than either of the sound waves separately. When two light waves constructively interfere, those regions in the diffraction pattern are brighter than either of the light waves separately.

But this is only part of the story of light passing through two nearby openings. Here's the rest: the angle at which light is bent as it passes through an opening depends on the color of the light. So red light, say, that passes through an opening will come out at a different angle than, say, blue light passing through the same opening. (These angles will be only slightly different, but different nonetheless. Also, because blue light carries just a bit more energy than red light, it is a bit more difficult to get blue light to change direction. So blue light is bent at a smaller angle than red light when light passes through a narrow opening.) The dependence on color of the angle at which light is diffracted naturally means that the locations of the regions of constructive interference in the diffraction pattern also depend on the color of the light.

The angle of diffraction depends on color. So, when white light – light which is a combination of all colors of light – diffracts through two openings that are close together, there will be regions in the resulting interference pattern where, say, red light constructively interferes, and different regions where, say, blue light constructively interferes. These regions will be, respectively, red and blue... And the same will be true, of course, for every other color. You can see this, for example, in the interference pattern that forms as white light passes through a "grating," a set of many parallel, narrow openings in an otherwise opaque material. (Fig. 3.) Yes, there are regions of red, of blue… and of all of the colors of the rainbow!

Fig. 3.

Fig. 3. There are regions of every color in the rainbow in the interference pattern that forms as white light passes through a diffraction grating – a set of many, narrow, parallel openings in an otherwise opaque material.

Fig. 3. From https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/edulabdocumentsandimages/images/EDU947.jpg

Wow – this is some cool physics! But what do light and slits have to do with opal?

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The answer, in a nutshell, is remarkable: the internal structure of opal effectively makes it a diffraction grating. In the interest of full disclosure, only those opals that are classified as "precious" opals have an internal structure similar to a diffraction grating; "common" opal does not. When a beam of light passes through a specimen of precious opal… it diffracts. In the resulting diffraction pattern, the light interferes with itself. And – this is the best part! – different colors within the beam of light constructively interfere in different locations. So, when white light passes through a precious opal, different regions in the resulting diffraction pattern are of different colors. And when the opal moves, even just a little bit, those regions of colors also move. When you look at an opal, the colors you see shimmer!

By the by, the word "opal" is derived from the Greek opállios, meaning "seeing changing colors." And it is believed that this word came to the Greeks from the ancient Sanskrit word upala, which means "jewel." Sounds about right, yes?

But, wait. How is it possible for an opal – a rock! – to be, effectively, a diffraction grating? The answer comes down to how the constituent molecules in an opal are organized. First, those molecules are formed by a silicon (Si) atom bonded to two oxygen (O) atoms; SiO2 is known as either silicon dioxide or silica. To be more specific, opals are a hydrated, amorphous form of silicon dioxide. "Amorphous" means that an opal is not crystalline. And "hydrated" means opals contain water – water makes up twenty percent or so of an opal, by weight. The water molecules in an opal are interspersed with spherical silicon dioxide molecules, creating a structure in which there are regular gaps between planes of these small silica spheres. (The arrangement of the silica spheres is akin to layers of ping pong balls stacked in a box.) And those gaps? Not so different from the gaps – the slits – in a diffraction grating. Yes, a piece of opal is effectively a diffraction grating.

Opals formed when rain fell on the dry ground in the semi-desert regions of, say, Australia or northern Nevada. Water seeped down into the rock deep below the surface, carrying with it dissolved silicon dioxide molecules. Eventually, much of the water evaporated, leaving deposits of silica in the various cracks and crevices. And with silicon dioxide and water, those deposits became opal. Opals can also form near volcanos, where hot water can carry silica along with it, permeating the rock beneath the surface and, again, leaving deposits of silica that eventually become opal.

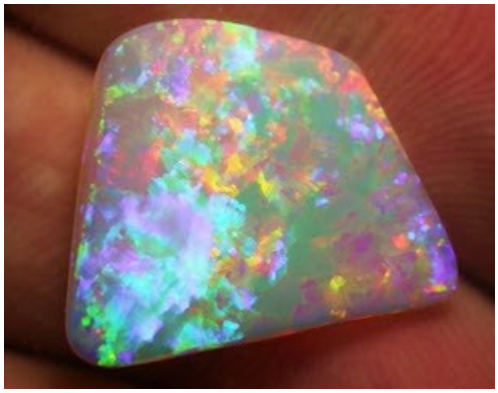

Fig. 4.

Fig. 4. A specimen of precious opal exhibits "play of color" when white light passes through it.

Fig. 4. From https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/95/10_7cts_Brazilian_Crystal_Opal.jpg

The shimmering regions of color that are displayed when white light passes through (or penetrates

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into and then is reflected back out of) a specimen of opal is termed “iridescence.” Opal is one of only a very few rocks that exhibit iridescence; for that reason, another term for this phenomenon is “opalescence.” Some in the field of gemology refer to it as “play of color;” a glance at the opal in Fig. 4. should convince you that this is a most evocative term.

Opal.. If you don’t already have a specimen in your collection, consider adding one. One of the reasons so many of us collect rocks and crystals is for their wide array of colors… and in opal, you can get all of the colors of the rainbow in a single specimen!

Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D., Department of Physics, Santa Clara University

Opal in Myths and Legends

Adam Sawicki of A&S Opals.com

Among all gemstones, opals have held a unique fascination throughout the ages. They have a magnetic warmth to their wonderful glowing colors that is not found in any other stone, and their beauty has stirred the hearts and passions of artistic souls for centuries.

Its history goes back to the dawn of time, though it has not always been clearly recorded. The first recorded name given to the stone was by the Romans when they named it ‘Opalus’, which means ‘precious stone’. The Greeks had called it ‘Opallos’, a verb that means “to see a color change.” It was adored by the ancient Romans some 200 years before Christ. Pliny the Elder, the Roman philosopher, once described the opal in a glowing, romanticized way saying: “...for in them you shall see the living fire of the ruby, the glorious purple of the amethyst, the sea green of the emerald, all glittering together in an incredible mixture of light.”

According to further writings by Pliny, the Roman senator Nonius once owned a grand opal, the most beautiful in Rome, said to be the size of a hazelnut, that Mark Antony dearly wished to buy as a gift for his lover, Cleopatra. Antony offered the modern day equivalent of a quarter million dollars for the gemstone. Nonius, liking neither Antony nor the deal, however, refused, and a furious Antony ordered Nonius’s execution as revenge. Nonius fled Rome before that command could be carried out, leaving all of his possessions behind, with the sole exception of the opal that had caused him such strife.

The superstitions surrounding opals, like many things in the ancient world, were many and varied. The Arabians believed they were magical stones that had fallen from the heavens, while in Asia they were believed to be a precious healing stones, dubbed ‘anchor stones of hope’. Some medieval Europeans attributed them strange powers, such as making the wearer invisible and giving great insight.

In the long centuries since its discovery, this prized stone has been mined in many countries, famously in the mines of Hungary and eastern Czechoslovakia. Where it is most well-known today, however, is Australia. Australia is home to arguably the largest and finest supply of opals in the world. There are no official records of Australia’s first commercial mines, but it is likely that the industry began in Queensland, in 1872, when the first opal was discovered on Listowl Downs. There was, however,

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never a mine constructed at that location, only surface prospecting.

Most of the world's opal supply comes from Australia, and Australia has the accompanying variety of opal types that implies. Black opal is the rarest and most valuable, with the vast majority (well over 95%) of the famous gems coming from Australia's Lightning Ridge. Boulder opal is found in crevices and cracks throughout ironstone boulders and comes in many varieties, such as black and crystal. Due to the thinness of most seams, tons of the exquisite gems are cut from the boulders, leaving a natural backing of ironstone on the opal. Light opal, the most abundant type in Australia, is found mainly at the town of Coober Pedy in southern Australia, the source of perhaps 90% of all production.

By 1875 there were many wonderful opal finds, especially throughout the Kyabra Hills of southwest Queensland, but there was no steady market for the newfound treasure. Herbert Bond of Toowoomba, Queensland is credited with the first attempt to establish an industry when, in 1879, he began supplying a company in London with opals from famous mines across Australia, such as the Aladdin, Scotsman and Coonavilla.

His failure was due to many factors, not the least being that the gem merchants found it hard to accept the fact that this brilliant new gem from Australian was not man-made. The problem was that the world had never seen an opal so beautiful and colorful before. All they had known for centuries was the milky type of opals from Hungary. Though his efforts to begin the industry failed, he was not unrewarded. Bond drew the attention of Queen Victoria, an ardent opal lover herself, who gifted him a 40 acre freehold title over the Aladdin Mine, the only such title in that part of Queensland to this day.

Ten years passed before another attempt was made to establish the industry. In 1889, Tully Wollaston, a young entrepreneur from Adelaide, stamped his name across the pages of Australian opal history with his visit to the Kyabra Field. There were only a few miners in the hills at the time; Charlie White, working at Breakfast Creek, was the first miner to sell him opals, 61 small pieces for twenty seven pounds ten shillings ($55.00 in today's money). To use Wollaston's own words, "It was small stuff, but very brilliant and the dancing lights pricked my hand in a delicious way."

It was Charles Whitehead's and Joe Bridles' opals from Stoney Creek that Wollaston took to London in July of 1889 that formed the basis of the industry we have today. He was instrumental in marketing all Australia's major finds: the beautiful crystal from Queensland in 1889, the soft, delicate light opal from White Cliffs in 1890, the breathtaking black gems of Lightning Ridge in 1903 and the world's largest supplier of light opal, Coober Pedy in 1915. Wollaston's efforts almost single-handedly kickstarted the industry that has endured to this day, and shared the beauty of the opal with the world at large.

There are several myths surrounding the opal that should be addressed, as they can bring unneeded negative connotations or are just plain misinformation. For the more superstitious types, some believe that opal brings only bad luck, unless it is your birthstone. Strangely, before the 1890s, the opal was considered a good luck stone across the world, particularly in Australia, where they had a saying: "The only bad luck about opal is not owning one!" In London, the opal began making a serious dent in the diamond market's monopoly in the 1890s, and soon after the rumors of its bad luck began circulating. It is likely this rumor was begun by diamond merchants looking to protect their markets. Despite this veil of negativity, the opal still remains popular; it is commonly used as an engagement ring stone in Japan.

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Another common misconception is that opal is too fragile to be safely worn. This is demonstrably false; opal is as hard as jade or amethyst, and tougher than turquoise. True, opals can crack, as can all gems, including diamonds. In general, a cracked opal is caused by an incorrect setting in jewelry. If set by a skilled jeweler and well cared for, an opal can provide a lifetime of beauty safely.

Soaking an opal in water to brighten it is a myth that has been floating around for years, and is distinctly untrue. Most opals come from Australia, and are not hydrophane gems. Hydrophane gems do change color when wet, it is true, but more often than not, this will not be the case with your opal. It is, however, always useful to know where your opal comes from.

The brightness of the fiery color an opal produces is one of the most important contributors to its beauty and value. It is also the most difficult characteristic to judge consistently. It is difficult to keep the brightness of a stone accurately in mind over time, which is one factor that contributes to the difficulty in comparisons. There is also a tendency to elevate the brightness of the stone currently being examined relative to others seen previously. The other reason is that brilliance is adversely affected by the light the opal is viewed under. This is why some opal sellers use high power lamps; they make an opal appear brighter than it would appear in natural sunlight, thus giving the impression that the stone is of greater brightness. Obviously, this implies a greater market value than may be accurate. Remember, brightness is the amount of light coming back from the opal. Moving the opal away from the light gives an idea of how well the brightness holds as lighting changes.

Original Source: https://www.aandsopals.com/opal-myths-and-legends

With permission from The Opal Express, August 2023, published by the American Opal Society.

Editor's Note: Please visit the link above to see the photos, including a beautiful collection of dark opals.

Smiles

Our new Motto

We find it best to organize things in advance, so we organize them into categories:

1) Things we won't do now.
2) Things we won't do later.
3) Things we won't ever do.

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue:

'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

- Rodney Dangerfield

ALAA News Alert

DOI Secretary Haaland Announces New Policies to Strengthen Climate Adaptation and Resilience Efforts

Greetings ALAA Recreational Rockhounds and Friends,

These DOI Press Release Policies may have affects on Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands managed by the BLM.

DOI Secretary Haaland Announces New Policies to Strengthen Climate Adaptation and Resilience Efforts

Quoted from Dave Williams-President of Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, “Although the release is fairly brief, it remains to be seen how new climate policies may affect recreational rockhounding. Please forward to your membership for their consideration.”

Press Release:

https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-announces-new-policies-strengthen-climate-adaptation-and-resilience

Thank you for your support.....

American Lands Access Association

www.amlands.org

alaa@amlands.org

The emotional support dog after I get done telling it my problems.

October Puns

What did the vampire say to the geologist?
Albite.

What do you do with dead geologists?
You barium.

Preliminary Membership Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

Call to Order - 7:33 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Program for the evening will be a video from Jo Borucki's extensive collection.
"Where and How to Look for Fossils"

New Members (Cynthia Porter): No new members to report

The Vice Corner (Michele Smith): No vice to report

Member Displays: Bob Kout - Large Mariposite

Davis Creek Field Trip Member Display - Stephen May: Outback Rocks, New Pine Tree OR, just over the border from Davis Creek.

Jobs that need to be filled:
– Nominating Committee – 3 people needed: Bruce Poehlman, Michele Smith, Stephen May.
– President, 2024 –
– Vice President, 2024 –
– Snacks for October and November:

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney):

Field Trips (Stephen May): Updates

September 28 - Aug. 1, Sep. 28th - Oct 1st Topaz Mt & Dugway Geo Beds UT Roseville Rock Rollers CFMS Gene Doyle, CO - OP & Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip Leader, Text or leave message, Cell (408) 605 - 9457, Email eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net. Jim Barton, CFMS - N, Home 916 - 773 - 0458, Cell (916) 847 - 7321, Email geologist1@surewest.net. Gene Doyle will email you a more detailed write up upon request. Topaz Crystals, Bixbite (Red Beryl), Pseudobrookite crystals, Hematite crystals, and Geodes.

The Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society has announced its next tailgate to be November 4th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. In Angels Camp. Directions available (contact Stephen May.

Rockhound of the Month – **Cesar and Lucy Nunez** Amazing snack provision! Happy Birthday, Lucy!

Bragging Rights for the month of September: none this month Next month's theme: "Something You Made" (Volunteer needed to take over lead on Bragging Rights submissions.

Hospitality: Introduce Guests; 20 Members and 0 Guests in attendance.

Sunshine: Margo Mosher. None to report

Federation Report (Karen Welder): ALAA

"On August 18, 2023 the Bureau of Land Management begins a 90 - day public comment period for the Rock Springs Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement covering 3.6 million acres of public lands and 3.7 million acres of Federal mineral estate in portions of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette and Fremont counties in southwest Wyoming. The comment period closes Nov. 16, 2023."

Program: Mineralogical Video Program from our extensive collection.

"Where and How to Look for Fossils" Cancelled due to technical difficulties

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Porter, Secretary

Preliminary Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm

Roll call: Noel Runyan (Board), Michelle Powers (Board), Jim Fox (Board), Missy Fox (Board), Rick Kennedy (Board), Paul Kidman (Alt Fed Dir), Stephen May (Pres), Frank Mullaney (Treasurer), Cynthia Porter (Sec), Michele Smith (Vice Pres), Dean Welder (Parliamentarian), Karen Welder (Fed Dir), Deb Runyan (News Editor)
Absent: Rick Kennedy

Reading of the Minutes from August 24th board meeting: (Frank Mullaney / Deb Runyan) Approved revisions: none

Correspondence: (Frank Mullaney): AFMS Newsletter, ALAA Newsletter, Dodge & Cox letter, McDaniels Insurance (Officers and Dealers insurance)

New Members: (Cynthia Porter): **Marc Gordon** of Sunnyvale attended a field trip and wishes to attend via zoom as he is a homecare provider for a disabled family member and cannot attend evening meetings in person. Please send zoom link in advance of next meeting so that he may attend.
(Frank Mullaney / Deb Runyan) Motion made to allow zoom meetings attendance to count toward membership. We will need to take zoom attendance zoom attendees. Approved
*In this case of Marc Gordon, the field trip attendance will be counted towards membership when dues are paid in full.

Treasurers Report: (Frank Mullaney): 20 members unpaid. Notices will be sent out and bill for stamps to be submitted.
(Deb Runyan / Michelle Powers) Motion to approve $5000 deposit for 2024 Show reservation. Housekeeping still to be negotiated. Approved *Parking buy out discussion to be continued next month.

Committee Reports:

Federation – (Karen Welder) Plans to be going to next CFMS meeting in November.

Field Trips – (Stephen May) Update: No new updates
September 28th – October 1st - Topaz Mt & Dugway Geo Beds, Delta UT. Sponsored by Roseville Rock Rollers, CFMS, Gene Doyle, CO - OP & Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip.
Kennedy Mine October 21st in Jackson

The Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society has announced its next tailgate to be November 4th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. In Angels Camp. Directions available.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee – Bruce Poehlman, Stephen May and Michele Smith
It looks like we may be able to get Jim Herbold to volunteer to be the President next year. Bruce Poehlman may be willing to volunteer for the position of Vice President.

New section of our site, Members only Trading Post. Not financially connected to the SCVGMS. Would be overseen by Michele Smith. Posts to be submitted to Michele Smith and she will post on the SCVGMS website after vetting to make sure the individual is a member in good standing (dues must be current). Disclaimer must be posted that the society is not responsible in any way. No profit may be taken by the organization.

New business:

Frank Mullaney proposed awarding **Donna Kelley** with Honorary Membership status including a stipend for travel and expenses. Some research will be required to understand how membership status of this nature would affect our ability to offer her a stipend of any kind.

Noel Runyan expressed interest in finding a method for our website to direct people to quality rock and mineral identification resources. Discussion to be continued next meeting. What links could or should be provided and how would we vet them?

Upcoming Programs:
October - Opal Program (Michele to provide Stephen with contact)?? Australia,
November - Silent Auction
December - Installation Dinner

Next Board meeting is October 26th

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Porter, Secretary

Another Smile

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP.

- Joe Namath

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Stephen May, 408-306-6782

Vice President: Michele Smith, 408-374-1897

Secretary: Cynthia Porter, 408-978-5848

Treasurer: Frank Mullaney, 408-691-2656

Editor: Deb Runyan, 408-628-7789

Federation Director: Karen Welder, 408-353-2675

Alternate Fed. Director: Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox, 408-356-7711

Missy Fox, 408-356-7711

Michelle Powers, 408-694-8686

Noel Runyan, 408-866-7564

Rick Kennedy, 408-529-9690

Parliamentarian: Dean Welder, 408-353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Alan Achor

Donation Receiving Committee Chair: Michele Smith

Show Chairpersons 2024: TBD

Fairgrounds Booth Chair: Michele Smith

Fairgrounds Liaison: Frank Mullaney

Fairgrounds Volunteer Coordinator: Margo Mosher

Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May

Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Jim Herbold

Founder's Day Raffle: TBD

Founder's Day Bingo: TBD

Hospitality: TBD

Installation Dinner: Tamara Bell, and Michael Paone

Member Displays: Rick Kennedy

Refreshments: TBD

Silent Auction: TBD

Sunshine: Margo Mosher

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

Librarian: Deb Runyan

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number 408-265-1422

Like us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. **General meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:00 followed by the meeting at 7:30 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. **The Next General Meeting is on October 24 at 7:30 at the Cabana Club and also available on Zoom.** The Next Board Meeting is at 7:30 on **October 26** on Zoom.

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months.

This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

Our Newsletter, the *Breccia*, is published ten times annually. The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after the general meeting. The Breccia editor is Deb Runyan who may be contacted by email at Deb4Rocks@gmail.com and by phone at 408-628-7789. The *Breccia* is proofread by Pat Speece and by Sonia Dyer.

Exchange bulletins may be emailed to Deb4Rocks@gmail.com. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.