STAUROLITE

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Board Members

President—Jessica Pearson
Vice President—Barbara Woolery
Treasurer—Mary Hedden
Recording Secretary—Andy Morales, Shelli Smith
Corresponding Secretary—Kim Christensen
Advisors– Bill Bessette, Tim Summers, Geri Gilham, Tony Gilham, Jim Wolford

Federation Director—Jessica Pearson
Shop Committee—Bill Bessette, Sue Alger, Calvin Shipley, Don Alexander, Greg Vidler
Fieldtrips—JJ Day, Cathy Govaller, Don Alexanders, Greg Vidler
Membership—Mary Hedden
Facebook — JJ Day, Tori Agular , Greg Vidler
Website—Cindy Ahlgrim
Meetup—Andy Petty

Purpose of OBMS

- To inspire the appreciation of rocks, minerals, and awareness in all earth sciences through educational programs, fieldtrips, and the collecting, cutting, & polishing of gem stones.
- Provide a non-profit environment where members can come together to share their experiences & skills
- OBMS is not organized for the private gain of any person. Its property is irrevocably dedicated to charitable or educational purposes and no part of the income or assets shall ever inure to the benefit of any private person.

Membership Fees

Everyone's membership is renewed in January except new members who just joined between October and December. It is easier to track that way.

To Join: One time initiation fee $10 + Membership Fee
Yearly Fee: Adult $20, Junior (under 12) $10, Couples $35, Family—3 or more $40.
Send check to OBMS, P.O. Box 285
San Bernardino, CA 92402

Keep Your Email Up-To-Date

We use your email to send the newsletter & up-to-date information about club events. Kimrocks2@sbcglobal.net

Monthly Club Meeting & BBQ
Second Saturday, October 11

The club meeting will be around 11:30 a.m. and the BBQ will follow. Please bring a side dish to share.

Shop Hours
Tuesday nights 4—8 p.m.
Friday nights 4—8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Officers' Elections Soon

Please start considering if you want to run for an office in the club or be on a committee. Let Jessica or Kim know by the October meeting. The election will be held at the November meeting.

Club Activities

Sunday, Sep. 30 Beach Fieldtrip 7:15 a.m.

☺ ☺ ☺

Saturday, October 11 — Meeting/BBQ starting around 11:30 a.m.

☺ ☺ ☺

Sunday, October 21—Fieldtrip TBD

OBMSrocks

http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com/

Message from the President

- **Jessica Pearson**

Hi Rockhounds,

Tien has a book published ***Wandering in Rock Country—One Rock, One Story!***. Check it out on his website: http://tienchanglee.wordpress.com. Congratulations, Tien! He has hard copies for sale.

With cooler weather coming, we will be able to hold some classes again! Make sure you sign up for classes. It is a great way to get projects done as well as support the club. Let's thank the instructors: Sherry, Mary, and Shelli.

Rockhound of the Month goes to Ollie. She has been a committed member. She comes weekly to the workshop. She is on all the fieldtrips and rock show trips. She is ready to learn any time—she has taken all the classes. She drives Arvid to the workshop so he can still enjoy the club. She is quiet ,but kind to everyone. Thanks, Ollie!

A fieldtrip is being planned for Sunday, October 21. The location has not been determined yet. The Vista Gem & Rock Show is October 5—7. It has been a good show in the past. There are lots of vendors, and an antique car and train museum at the same site. Keep an eye out in your email for the details.

Please talk with me if you are interested in becoming an officer. All positions become available each year. Let's keep working together. Let's keep having fun. Come learn and enjoy the hobby.

OBMS General/Board Meeting

September 15, 2018
From Andy/Shelli

Meeting called to order by President Jessica.

Highlights of the minutes for the previous meeting were published in the OBMS newsletter from the previous month and distributed via email to members.

Treasurer's Report—Mary gave the treasurer's report.

Shop Report

Purpose: OBMS is a non-profit environment meant to educate members and the public about earth sciences and lapidary arts.

Liability: The Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, Inc., is not and cannot be held responsible and liable for personal injuries, for damage or loss of property at meetings, workshop, classes, fieldtrips, shows, or any event sponsored or recommended herein.

Safety: Be safe. OBMS has no insurance for medical coverage. You use your own insurance. Remember we are all amateurs. You make your own decisions. Use machines wisely and carefully. Ask for help. Wear safety glasses and dust masks.

Fees: Everyone must pay shop fees. We need to generate enough income to pay for rent, utilities, repairs, and supplies.

Pay for Food: Soda and chips are 50 cents. This helps pay for replenishing and food for the BBQ.

Shop Report Continued
Electrical Outage

There was a power outage to our facility on the second weekend of the month. We postponed the meeting/BBQ until the following weekend.

Tien's Rock Book Published

Tien published a book called ***Wandering in Rock Country—One Rock, One Story***. Hard copies will be available at the end of the year, early next year. Free to look online. The book includes colored pictures of all local rocks! Check it out at his website: http://tienchanglee.wordpress.com. Look for a link on our Facebook page and Website.

Fieldtrips

San Onofre Beach—September 2

We enjoyed the trip to the beach.. We did find some black jade. It looks like there are a lot of small pieces, but some large pieces were found.

September 30, Fieldtrip Being Planned

Location is being decided based on the weather. Jim is looking into a spot near Barstow that we have not been to yet. Look for an email.

Safety: Reminder do not go off hiking by yourself. It is too easy to trip and fall. It happens.

Classes

Weather is starting to cool. Get ready to sign up for classes. Let Jessica or Kim know what type of classes you are interested in taking or giving.

Look for the following classes in the future:

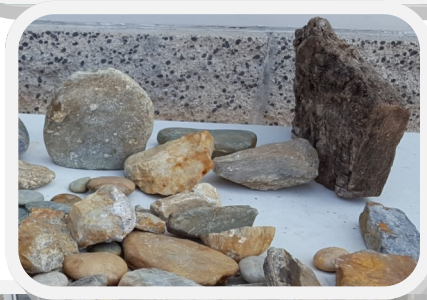
Chainmaille—Sherry

Braided Copper Wire, Soldered Bracelet—Mary

Three Stone, Copper Wirewrapped Bracelet—Shellie

If you want to teach a class, please let Jessica or Kim know. The more people sharing their knowledge the better.

Meeting Adjourned-Potluck Followed.



Shop News

Committee: Bill Bessette, Sue Alger, Calvin Shipley, Don Alexander, Greg Vidler

Opening: Jim and Mary are opening on Saturdays. Andy is opening on Friday nights. Sue and Bill S. are opening on Tuesday nights. Andy and Greg are opening on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Jessica is opening as needed.

Workshop Hours:

Tuesday & Friday 4—8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Equipment Fixed

Bill has worked on the saws. Please make sure your rock is secure and enough oil is dripping on the blade.

Countertops

Clean off the countertops at the end of the day. Take your stuff home or put it in a locker. We have a lot of members who all need workspace. OBMS is not responsible for loss items.

Slab Saws Share Equipment

If slab saws are in high demand, please share. Just cut one slab and let another person work too. The club is here to support socializing and education about lapidary.

Grinding Machines

Use enough water on the grinding belts, but not so much it sprays all over. Do not press too hard. It can knock off the diamond quicker. Let the belt do the grinding..

Trim Saws

Used for trimming slabs that are about 1/4 inch to shape them for cabochon making. Do not press hard. It can knock off the diamond from the blade. If the motor stalls or slows, you are pressing too hard.

Everyone Can Help

Everyone can help keep the workshop clean. Put things back. Refill supplies. Clean off counters. Empty the trash. Mop, sweep. Ask to help.

Work together to keep it a fun place to be! We are so Lucky to have a workshop.

"Helpful Hound" Award

This award recognizes extra work around the workshop. People who give their time to clean up, fix items, and share their knowledge to help the club. We want to thank everyone who helps keep the club and workshop going.

Jan-Julie	Feb– Robin
Mar–Joe	April-Vihn
May-Bill B.	June-Bill B.
July-Arvid	Aug-George & Pam
Sep-Ollie	Oct-Emma
Nov-Greg	Dec—Jim

Kim – Newsletter: Keep your e-mail address up-to-date at kimrocks2@sbcglobal.net

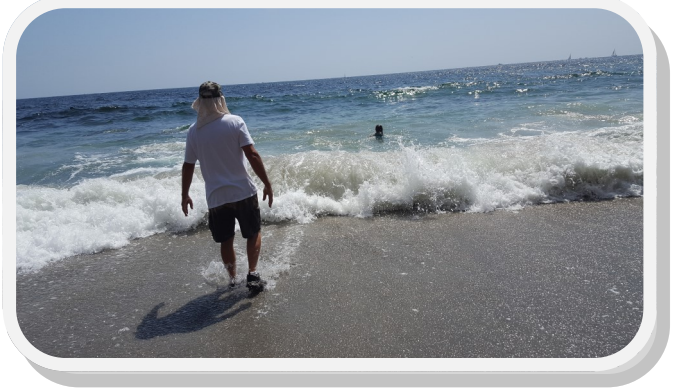
Mary—Membership Database—Keep your contact information up-to-date at the workshop.

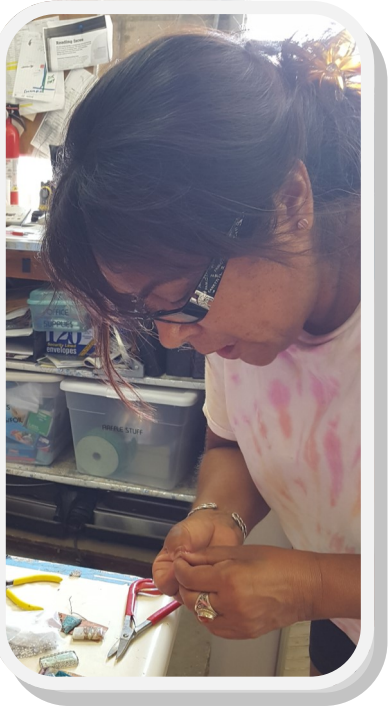
Grreg & JJ– Facebook: Orange Belt Mineralogical Society page and check it out.

Cindy —OBMS Website—Check out http://obmsrocks.yolasite.com

Andy—Meetup.com—OBMS Rockhound Group.

September 2018—Rocks, Friends, & Hobby





Silver—Under $15

Getting Started Silversmithing —What to Buy to Make Pendants

The item numbers are from **Riogrande.com**, but there are other places you can buy silver. Locally you can go to Katherine's Beads in Grand Terrace**. The prices below are an estimate at silver being about $16/oz.**

Metal thickness is measured by gauge. The smaller the number, the thicker the metal. This means a 24 ga sheet is thicker than a 26 ga. sheet.

Backplate—buy 24 ga. or thicker

100124 Sterling Silver Sheet
6" x 1.5", 24 ga $21.33
- Can make 4 of the 30x22 mm cabs.

Bezel—buy either plain or gallery wire. Sterling Silver is less prone to melting than fine silver, but fine silver will bend easier.

103269—Gallery Wire SS Style B $7.87
1 foot

104030—Fine Silver Bezel $4.41
1 foot, 26 ga, 3/16"

100290-Sterling Silver Strip $3.38
1 foot, 28 ga., 3/16"

Decoration/bail/open back

100320 Square Wire SS $2.32
2 feet, 20 ga.
(open back, twist for bail)

100316 Round Wire SS $6.13
2 feet, 16 ga.
(open back, bail,
twist for decoration, 2.6 mm high)

Solder

101100 Silver Wire Solder, Easy $1.08
101703 Silver Wire Solder, Med $1.15 x2
101704 Silver Wire Solder, Hard $1.15

Flux

504086 Handy Flux Paste $10.75

Learning New Skills

Periodically classes are available in different techniques. A sign up sheet is available at the workshop when classes are scheduled.

In general, members help members learn new techniques.

Cabbing—Almost anyone at the shop can help you with cabbing. You often see Jim, Andy, Penny, Nancy, and Mary making cabs. Tony can help too.

Slab Cutting—Almost anyone at the shop can help you slab rocks. You often see Jim, Tien, Don., Greg, Penny, and Bill B. cutting rock.

Wirewrapping— Shelli, Jessica, Pam, and Mary are ready to help you learn to wirewrap.

Wire Weaving—Shelli and Joey can help you learn.

Beading - Jessica and Sherry can help with beading.

Silversmithing—Kim, Andy, Mary, Sherri, Tony, and Gia are people who can help.

Carving—Tony and Penny are a good sources to help you learn to carve.

Sphere Making—Bill B., Tony, and Penny can teach sphere making.

Chain Maille—Sherry can help you with chain maille projects.

Faceting—Kim can help you learn to facet.

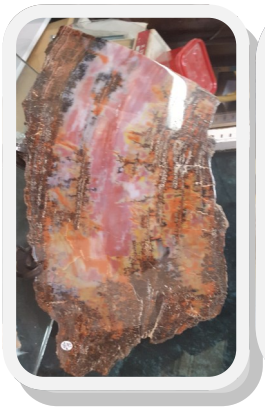
Lost Wax Casting—Kim will help. Looking for others to help.

Tumbling—Andy and Greg can help you learn to tumble.

Identifying Rocks—Tien, Jim, Tony, Bill can help you identify rocks.

If you need help with using equipment, cabbing a stone, or making jewelry, ask around at the workshop. The club is there to support and encourage each other. Remember: be careful and safe. If equipment needs service, leave a note or talk to Bill B.

If you want to be added to this list to help others, let Kim know — at kimrocks2@sbcglobal.net.



Some Upcoming Rock Shows

The http://www.cfmsinc.org/ site has rock show listings.

You can find show listings for all over the USA and Canada at http://The-Vug.com , the //www.rockngem.com site and the magazine too.

No rock shows were scheduled for July!

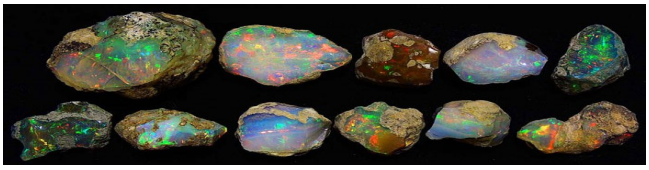
Rock Education

Hydrated Minerals

Hydroxide minerals are typically secondary minerals that form when water reacts with existing rocks and minerals. Other groups can be come hydrated when water molecules are incorporated into the crystal structure.

Turquoise is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum. Turquoise are found in arid, semiarid, and desert environments.

Opal is hydrated silicon dioxide. It has the same chemical composition as quartz, but contains about on-tenth to as much as a third of water.



Howlite is found in borate deposits with the most ornamental pieces found from various sites in California and Mexico. We find howlite in the Barstow area.

Gypsum is the most common sulphate mineral. It is usually the first evaporate mineral to be precipitated from water due to its poor solubility.

Borax is a hydrated mineral used to make soap and is added to glass to make it heat proof.

Talc, another hydrated mineral, is one of the softest known minerals, and it is used to keep babies' bottoms rash-free.

Minerals Salts

Minerals salts, or halides, are group of sometimes brightly colored minerals that form when metals pair up with one of the halogen elements—fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine. Many dissolve in and are left behind when saltwater evaporates.

Fluorite is calcium fluoride and comes in many beautiful colors.—purple, orange, green, and others. When metals are smelted, fluorite is used as a flux to lower the melting point of impurities making it easier for them to separate from the metals.

One of the most common halide mineral is halite, rock salt. It is an important industrial chemical as well as used in foods to flavor and preserve foods.

Mineral salt can be found is dissolved in oceans and in salt lakes. The inland lakes that are risch insalt exist in arid regions.

Mineral salts can be found in non-arid regions mined from below the ground surface, at a depth around a thousand feet.

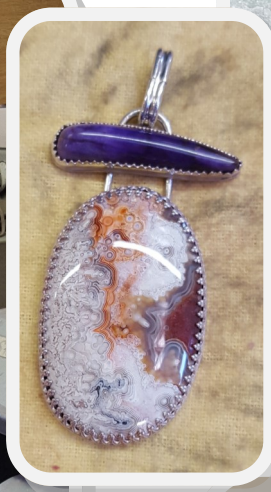
Wells are drilled down to the salt layer. Then, hot water is poured in the hole to dissolve the salt into a brine which is pumped out.

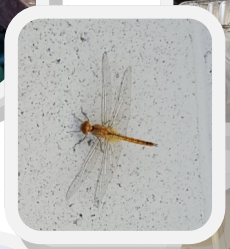
Other halides include the silver ore chlorargyrite, sylvite, and sal ammoniasc. Sylvite is used to make potassium fertilizer. Sal ammoniac is a rare aluminum chloride mineral used in the salty Nordic liquorice salmiakki.

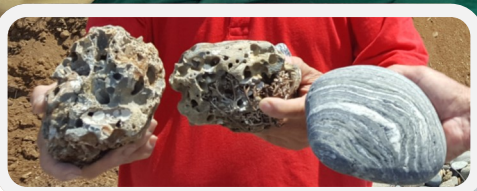
Smithsonian—The Rock and Gem Box:*Minerals: What is a Mineral?*

Geology.com and Minerals.net

September 2018—Rocks, Hobby, & Friends







Rockhound Websites

(Use these sites at your own risk.)

//obmsrocks.yolasite.com

Our club website.

//www.facebook.com/

Our group is "Orange Belt Mineralogical Society"

//groups.yahoo.com/group/LA-Rocks/

Full of rock enthusiasts and postings of rock hunting events.

//www.cfmsinc.org

Our club is a member of CFMS. There are lots of rock hunts scheduled.

//www.ebay.com

Search rough rocks or rock slabs

//www.highdesertlapidary.com

Wide variety of slabs with good pictures. (Almost like being at Quartzsite.)
Good for learning the names of the rocks

//www.facebook.com/

"Lapidary swap shop" is a group for posting items to trade equipment, tools, rocks with other enthusiasts.

//www.schoolofgemology.com/ISGTurquoiseBuyersGuide/index.html

Bob suggested this site. It discusses buying the real from the fake turquoise.
Jewelry Making Supplies:

//www.riogrande.com

Albuquerque, NM -A huge jewelry supply store. Shows the silver spot market price on its front page. Free online-videos—click on Learn with Rio. (800) 545-6566

//www.ijsinc.com/

Albuquerque, NM –Indian Jewelry Supply Company—A complete jewelry supply store. Carries stamps and dies for making Indian jewelry. (800) 545-6540

National Geographics Topographical Maps

National Geographics launched a website for printing topographical maps for free.—Thanks, Calvin.

https://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads/

//ottoFrei.com

Oakland, CA—A complete jewelry supply store. Often 5% coupon in Art Jewelry and Lapidary Journal magazine. (800) 772-3456

Lapidary Equipment & Supplies:

//Covington-engineering.com

☺ ☺ **Local** ☺ ☺

715 West Colton Ave

Redlands, CA—Manufacturer of lapidary equipment and some supplies/ books. (877) 793-6636

//www.diamondpacific.com/

2620 W. Main Str.
Barstow, CA—Manufacturer of lapidary equipment and some supplies/books. (800)253-2954

//www.jbfc.com/ Johnson Brothers

1452 N. Batavia St. **New Location**
Orange, CA—A variety of lapidary and some jewelry making tools.
(714) 771-7007

//KingsleyNorth.com

Norway, MI –A variety of lapidary equipment, tools, supplies, books
(800) 338-9280

Magazines:

//www.jewelrymakingdaily.com
(Lapidary Journal/Jewelry Artist)

Login for free to get access to online videos and projects.

//www.rockngem.com

Show date listings.

Rock Supplies:

NewEraGems.com

Grass Valley, CA—Recommended in faceting booklet. Has cabbing and faceting rough. (800) 752-2057

Gems A Plenty

575 N Central Ave
Upland, CA
(909) 985-1999

Earth's Treasures

582 Alder Rd
Crestline, CA 92407
(909) 338-2010

SHOP USE AND MAINTENANCE

Proper use of equipment: Help reduce the number of repairs by using the equipment carefully.

Trim Saws

- Trim saws are used for preforming or trimming cabs from slabs. There are three trim saws: blue, red, and Rock Rascal.
- The blue trim saw has the thickest blade. This saw is the saw that should be used most of the time. Use this saw if you are trimming obsidian, agate , or harder material.
- The red saw is a lighter duty saw. It is used for cutting smaller pieces and trimming corners. It can be used to trim lighter material like howlite.
- The Rock Rascal is for specialty cutting only. It has a delicate, expensive thin blade used to trim more expensive, soft stones like turquoise and opal.

Trim Saw Usage

- **Make sure there is water in the saw basin**.

  Turn the blade on to see water drips off the blade in a light stream before cutting on a rock. This keeps the rock cool and cleans the rock bits off the blade.

- **Push lightly.**

  Do not push hard against the blade. If the blade slows down or stops, you are pushing too hard. You can also listen to the cut. It should be a light sound.

  Let the blade cut the rock slowly, so the diamond bits do not chipped off the blade. This helps make the blade last longer.

- **When done:**

  Throw the larger bits away in a scrap bucket or trash. Rinse the tray top with water and dry it clean. Replace the water if the water is cloudy.

- **Closing at the End of the Shop Day**

  At the end of the day, drain the saw basin and dry the saw top. This is so the blades do not rust and last longer.

Large Slab Saws

- The large slab saws are used for cutting rock slabs from boulders less than 2/3 the blade height.
- **Use scraps of wood wedges to make good contact**.

  Carefully place shims around the rock so the vise – shims are touching many areas of the rock. Rocks need at least three good contact points.

- **Tighten the vise. Then, pull on the rock vigorously.**

  Make sure the vise is tight and the rock can not move. When a rock slips, it can destroy—bend — a blade. Large saw blades are very expensive to replace. To be safe, **tighten the vise again by hand.**

- **Check the blade will not saw into the vise.**

  Place the rock so the rock sticks out from the vise. Four turns of the vise knob is about ¼ inch. Make sure the rock sticks out from the end of the vise for the number of slabs you want to cut. **Recheck this every time you start a new cut.**

- **Pull the rock back away from the blade.**

  Do not start the blade on the rock; pull the vise carriage back so the rock is away from the blade before starting the blade.

- **Turn the blade by hand before starting. Tighten the carriage set screws.**

  Make sure the blade has no contact with the rock before starting.

- **Check there is enough oil**.

  Oil should be dripping off the blade when you turn it. Otherwise, you need to add oil or unplug the tubbing.

- **Stay with the saw while it is cutting.**

  The blade and vise can be damaged if the saw jams after the slab has fallen.

- **When done**, throw away the rock bits and **wipe off the trays**. Close the lid.
- **Please do not change the belt speed**.

  Leave the belts where they are set. Let the blade do the cutting slowly so the
  diamond stays on the blade longer.

- **Please do not change the vise stops.**

  They protect the machine.

Rock Clean Up Process

1. **Use the kitty litter box**. There is a box with kitty litter. Put the rock in the box and pour kitty litter over the rock to absorb the oil. Brush the kitty litter off the rock.
2. **Use the Simple Green bucket**. There is a bucket with Simple Green to help remove the oil. Dunk the rock in the bucket and use a brush to help remove the oil in crevices.
3. **Use the rinse bucket**. There is a water bucket with water in it. After steps 1 & 2, dunk the rock in the water bucket for final cleaning.

Do not put a rock in the sink to clean it. The sink drain was damaged—torn—by rocks sliding against it.

Grinders

- **Turn main water valves on/off.**

  -There is a main water valve near the first grinder by the sink. There is another valve about every two grinders. These valves gets turned on/off depending on which set of grinders are in use to save water.

  -Each grinder has its own water valve on top of the grinder which controls the water flow to the grinder's belt.

- **Keep a light stream of water on the belt.**

  -Turn water on so there is a light stream of water on the belt before grinding a rock. - The belt should look wet as you grind.

  -This keeps the rock cool and cleans the rock bits off the belt.

- **Push lightly.**

  -Do not push hard against the belt. Harder material like agate grinds slower than soft material like turquoise.

  -Use the entire width of the belt so the belt wears evenly. If you only work in the center, a groove can form.

  -Let the belt cut the rock slowly so the dia-

Flat laps

- There are two large flat laps and two changeable top laps.
- One large wheel is for coarse 40-80 grit only. Its base is heavy duty steel and the grit does not scratch the base. There is no grit sign on this wheel.
- The other large wheel is for finer grit of 220 or more. The wheel can be scratched by the coarser grit. Only use fine grit on this wheel. It has a 220 sign on the outside of the box.
- Finer polishing of slab/geode material should be done on one of the other two laps with changeable tops.
- **When done**, wash off the grit and dry the wheel.

Polishing Wheel

- **Keep spraying water on the cerium–oxide polishing wheels** while you work. It should be a fine slush, paste to polish properly. Keeping the wheel wet keeps the rock cool and lets the polish flow over the rock.
- Note: Dry polishing is bad on the lungs. Wear a mask if you decide to do that..

Closing

- **Grinders**: Make sure all the water **valves are closed**. Mop in front of the grinders.
- **Water Trim Saws**: **Trim saws** should be **drained before closing and the trays rinsed off**. The waste water should be poured out in the parking lot trough and the sediment dumped into the dumpster.
- **Tripoli/Rouge Polishing Station**: Wipe the tray out and throw the loose fibers away.
- **Wax pot:** Unplug the wax pots and iron**.**
- **Soldering Station:** Check the torch is turned off and check the pickle pot is unplugged.
- **Empty the trash**

  Look around and tidy up.

- **Turn the Main Breakers Switch Off**

OBMS Workshop
205 West Benedict #8
San Bernardino, CA
92408
PH (909) 381-0089

Workshop Hours
Tuesday
4 p.m.— 8 p.m.

Friday
4 p.m.— 8 p.m.

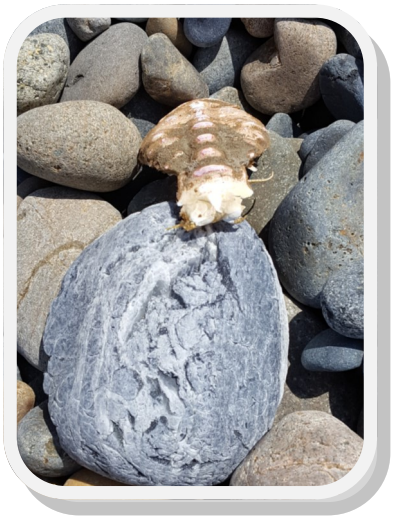
Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

2nd & 4th Sunday
10 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Monthly Club Meeting
The SECOND Saturday of the month at the work-shop most of the time.

Monthly BBQ or Picnic
The SECOND Saturday of the month right after the club meeting. Bring your favorite dish to share and a projects to show.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 2018 **9/30 7:15 a.m.** **Fieldtrip**	**1**	**2** **Shop** **4-8**	3	4	5 **Shop** **4-8**	**6** **Shop** **10-3**
7	8	9 **Shop** **4-8**	10	11	**12** **Shop** **4-8**	**13** **Mtg/BBQ** **11:30 a.m.** ☺☺☺ **Shop** **10-3**
14 **Shop** **10—2**	15	16 **Shop** **4-8**	17	18	19 **Shop** **4-8**	20 **Shop** **10-3**
21 **Fieldtrip** **TBD**	22	23 **Shop** **4-8**	24	25	26 **Shop** **4-8**	**27** **Shop** **10-3**
28 **Shop** **10—2**	29	**30** **Shop** **4-8**	31		**Shop** **4-8**	**Shop** **10-3**

Newsletter articles and advertisement are due by the 20th of the month.

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
San Bernardino, CA 92402