

# Livermore

# Lithogram



**Volume XXXVIII, Number 2** **Livermore Valley Lithophiles**  
**February 2013** **Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:  
 Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013  
**Livermore Library Community Room**  
 7:30 PM

**Program: Show and Tell**

Next Board Meeting:  
 Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013  
**At the Shop**  
 Members are welcome to attend!

**Meeting Location: Livermore Library Community Room 'B'**

**Refreshments: Chris and Albert**

**MEMBERS  
 DUES ARE DUE**

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**Presidents Message:**

Fabulous February Lithophiles! We had a great brainstorming session at the January meeting, and have some wonderful ideas for our activities in the 2013. Please see the spreadsheet later in this *Lithogram* for all the possibilities, and don't hesitate to sign up to help on some event or activity. As you can see by all the blank spots in the spreadsheet, we do need your help to make this happen.

The "current" shop rules are dated 1995, so the Board reviewed the rules at the January meeting and decided to reissue the rules so all members, new and old had a copy of the rules. We will have copies of the shop rules at the general meeting, please pick one up.

Our program for the February general meeting, on February 14 in the Library Community Room, is a member show-and-tell, so bring something you've worked on, or something you found, or something from your collection and tell us all about it. I will bring the extraordinary "Eye of the President" to share. Hey, it's Valentine's Day, so I you could bring your sweetie for the show-and-tell...

-Rich Hunt

[rcjhunt@comcast.net](mailto:rcjhunt@comcast.net)

925-443-5525

## Minutes of the General Meeting

January 10, 2013

Called to order at 7:30pm.

Two guests: Jenny Siders and her son Charlie. Charlie is a 4-H lapidary project participant. Charlie showed the club his first cabochon that he made. The lapidary project includes four participants, each of who bought slabs at the silent auction in November's show and is being taught how to make a cabochon from them. This will be followed by learning how to fix them into jewelry settings.

Chris and Albert will be responsible for refreshments at February meeting.

Bill Beiriger showed a laminated poster of the rock cycle that he designed and will be producing for the schools. He also has received a DVD set for St. Michael's School classes.

Need to find out how much is in the Gorges? fund. Albert made a motion for the Gorges? fund to continue supporting Bill Beiriger's school teaching activities. Lee seconded the motion.

Discussed activities that the club could plan now that we are part of the Downtown Association sponsored events (e.g., Farmer's Market):

- booth at the upcoming wine festival in downtown Livermore in May.
- club members selling jewelry and share proceeds with club
- informational/education booth
- mixture selling and information
- walk-in educational booth similar to Girl Scout Jamboree

Remainder of meeting dedicated to planning for the year. The following table compiles ideas suggested and discussed; note where activity leads have placed their names. Many suggested activities are in need of a club leader.

### Exchange Newsletters on Our Web Site

- - - You must have a password for these newsletters - - -

**S.C.R.I.B.E.** - National G. & M. Club Editors.

**Rockhound Ramblings** - Pasadena, CA

**The Rollin' Rock** - Roseville, CA

**The Rockhounder** - Montgomery Co., MD

**Diablo Diggins** - Concord, CA

**Ghost Sheet** - Modesto, CA

**Breccia** - San Jose, CA

**Goldrush Ledger** - Charlotte, NC

**Cabber Grabber** - Mobile, AL

**Rostrum** - Baltimore, MD

**Moroks** - Monrovia, CA

**Petrograph** - Castro Valley, CA

**Prospector**- Carmel, CA

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Rich Hunt at the Barn.

Those also in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Lee Davisson, and Chris Hunt.

**Correspondence:** - Club correspondence included two bank statements, 4 members' dues, and other clubs' show announcements.

**Shop:** - Chris Hunt reported on Shop matters. Of primary concern was that Shop rules were not thoroughly known by Shop foremen and members and that they were often not followed by Shop users even if advised to by the foremen. The rules will be published in the *Lithogram*, pending review. It was discussed that the Shop is to be used only by Club members and only for hobby purposes.

A sign-up list will be posted at the Shop for cleaning and repairing the slab saws. Lee Davisson has obtained manufacturer's instructions for using both saws along with a parts list.

Rich Hunt and Lee Davisson indicated that their 4-H project is going well. They have a number of young people learning how to cut cabochons.

**Treasurer's Report:** - There was no Treasurer's report.

**Schools:** - Bill Beiriger reported that he has been extremely busy giving talks to fourth and second grade students. He has done some research into obtaining rock cycle cards for the schools. The cards could be printed in a 9-inch by 12-inch glossy format for an approximate cost of about \$189 per 1,000 for one-sided cards or about \$212 per 1,000 for double sided cards. We will look into the possibility of procuring the cards for distribution to the schools.

**Program:** - The February program will be of a show and tell type.

**Field Trips:** - Lee Davisson is looking into possible field trips. Several possibilities were mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

## Canceled Stamps

**Let's start collecting canceled stamps and send them to the California Federation for the scholarship fund-raiser.**

**Most stamps are now "forever" stamps, but they are still requested, except for canceled liberty bell stamps.**

**Please do not cut the stamps; leave some room around the stamps and do not cut the perforations!**

**I will start collecting them, bring them to a meeting or to the shop. They can be taken to the CFMS show each year.**

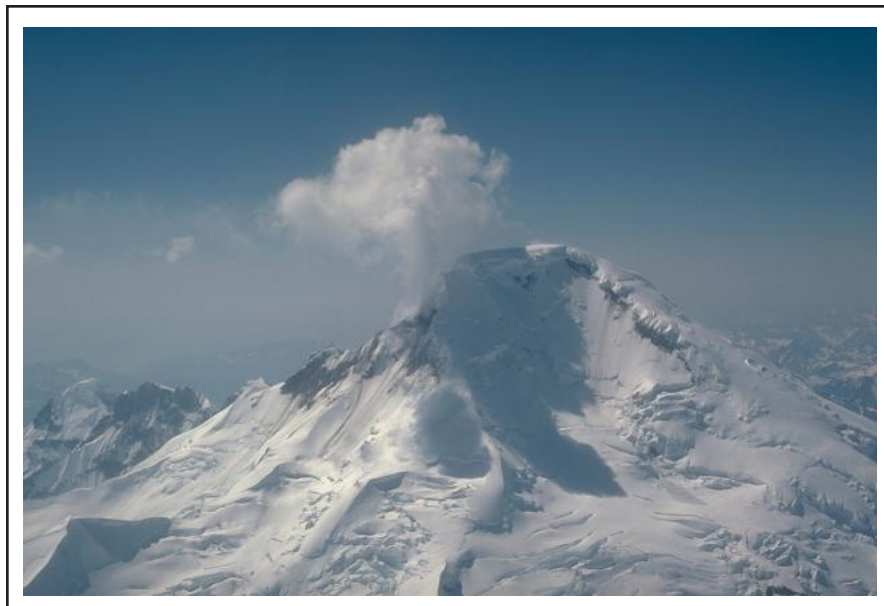
**If you don't save your Lithogram then save the stamp.**

**Thanks, Bill Beiriger**

## **The Volcanoes of Alaska.**

Compiled by Bill Beiriger

**Information and Photos from the Global Volcanism Program - Smithsonian Institution.**



### **Illiamna - Southwestern Alaska**

**Last Eruption - 1876**

**10,016 feet**

**60.032° N 153.090° W**

Illiamna is a prominent, 3053-m-high glacier-covered stratovolcano in Lake Clark National Park on the western side of Cook Inlet, about 225 km SW of Anchorage. Its flat-topped summit is flanked on the south, along a 5-km-long ridge, by the prominent North and South Twin Peaks, satellitic lava dome complexes. The Johnson Glacier dome complex lies on the NE flank. Steep headwalls on the southern and eastern flanks expose an inaccessible cross-section of the volcano. Major glaciers radiate from the summit, and valleys below the summit contain debris-avalanche and lahar deposits. Only a few major Holocene explosive eruptions have occurred from the deeply dissected volcano, which lacks a distinct crater. Most of the reports of historical eruptions may represent plumes from vigorous fumaroles east and SE of the summit, which are often mistaken for eruption columns (Miller et al., 1998). Eruptions producing pyroclastic flows have been dated at as recent as about 300 and 140 years ago (into the historical period), and elevated seismicity accompanying dike emplacement beneath the volcano was recorded in 1996.

Photo by Game McGimsey, 1986 (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Volcano Observatory).

<http://www.volcano.si.edu/world/volcano>



## **School Science Program**

### **By Bill Beiriger**

### **School Classrooms**

Well this year and December of last year has been keeping me very busy. I have added two schools that I have not been involved with in the past. First I added Walnut Grove School in Pleasanton and Walt Disney School in San Ramon. Our members the Downey's daughters go to Walt Disney School so I volunteered to give a presentation for them.

Since the winter school break, I started the new year in January being very busy. I started with 2nd grades at Rancho Las Positas, then 4th grades at Sunset, then back to Rancho Las Positas for 4th grades.

On January 17 I went to Sunset School for a early morning class only to find out I was at the wrong school and got back into the van and I headed to Rancho, I got there 2 minutes before class time, I did not speed but lucked out with only one red light to wait for.

I then finished off January with 2nd and 4th grade classes at Marylin Ave. School.

I will have another busy month in February.

Student count to date for the 2012-2013 school year stands at 931 students, at seven schools.

I will report on February in the March Lithogram.

### **Science Odyssey Science Fair**

I have Science Odyssey at Junction Ave. School on February 28. Lee and I will cover the science fair for the Lithophiles.

### **Science In Livermore Middle Schools**

I am having a meeting with the Earth Sciences Department personal for the Livermore Middle Schools. The Lithophiles have never been involved with any programs at any of our Middle Schools, so I am going to see if our group can be of any help for their curriculum. More on this project for the March meeting

## **Origin of the Chemistry Set**

Practical to Career-Oriented to Just Plain Fun  
By JENNIFER A. KINGSON

Harry Potter fans will appreciate the origin of the chemistry set: In 18th century England, university students were given supply lists and sent to shops in London that assembled kits for each course of study, from geology to mineralogy and chemistry.

Eventually those shops started selling the kits more widely, as science captured the public imagination in the Victorian era, said Rosie Cook, a cultural historian at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit group in Philadelphia. She is curating an exhibit of chemistry sets planned for 2014.

The early sets were very similar to pharmacy or doctor's kits from the era, Ms. Cook said. They were "fully stocked with glassware and porcelain labware, beautiful wooden boxes." (Picture Professor Snape's potions lab.)

By World War I, she said, the Porter brothers, who ran the Porter Chemical Company in Hagerstown, Md., started importing kits from England. "You'll find them in the five-and-dime, Woolworth's," Ms. Cook said.

Soon after, an inventor and entrepreneur named A. C. Gilbert — who popularized the Erector Set — introduced chemistry sets, going up against the Porters and their Chemcraft brand.

"By the 1940s, you probably have 15 manufacturers," Ms. Cook said.

At the time, science and scientists were held in the highest esteem, and chemistry sets were perhaps the first toys marketed to American parents as a way to help their children succeed. "They're claiming that these kits are going to be career-building sets," Ms. Cook said. "It's very ingenious. They really are playing on the subconscious of parents, who grew up in the Depression and want a steady career" for their children.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, chemistry sets entered the atomic age. Gilbert offered an "Atomic Energy Lab" that came with "radioactive ores" and a Geiger counter. A Porter Chemcraft kit had uranium samples and a spintharoscope, a device for viewing radioactive decay. (The humor site Cracked.com last year named toys like this in a list of "The 8 Most Wildly Irresponsible Vintage Toys.") "Was it dangerous? Probably," Ms. Cook said. "This was all before the launch of the consumer protection agency. This is also the period where science doesn't really know what is dangerous and what isn't."

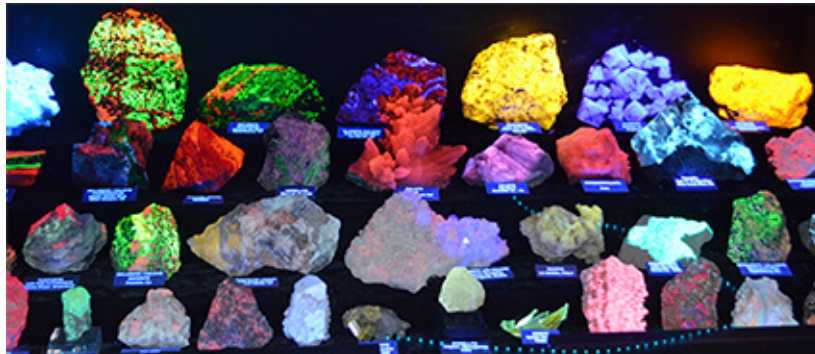
By the 1960s, the environmental movement started to turn "chemicals" into a dirty word, and sales of chemistry sets plummeted accordingly. In the 1970s, the Consumer Product Safety Commission was set up and started clamping down on the contents of kits, leading the products to all but disappear for a decade or two. By the 1990s, chemistry sets started to trickle back, usually under the guise of "kitchen chemistry," Ms. Cook said. Today's kits are mostly in that vein.

Her organization owns about 110 vintage chemistry sets, up from a dozen or so in 2003, when Ms. Cook joined. "We have the largest collection held in the public sphere," she said. "This is what happens when you give me a budget and eBay."



**Lithorama 2012 Recap**  
**By Lee Davisson**  
**Photos by Nancy Bankhead**

Lithorama 2012 was a big success with 883 total visitors to the show. Nearly a third of the visitors were children. As in previous years the show featured the crowd-drawing Glow Room where displays of fluorescing minerals and uranium bearing glassware were on display. A big thank you goes to Rich Langlois, Albert Hess, Al Robb, and Chris Whitaker for setting up and exhibiting their beautiful specimens. Among other features at the show were four separate demonstrators who worked both Saturday and Sunday. Dian Gardner showed-off his long-time skills in mineral faceting, invoking a lot of questions from show visitors. Carol Wilson and Stephanie Goldsmith took turns practicing their passion for free-hand carving. In addition, we had a new demonstrator this year, Derek Ibarra from the Stockton club who wowed the crowds with his silver wire wrap skills, producing beautiful and unique findings. Lastly, all the kids favorite, Preston Bingham spent both show days demonstrating his magical bed making expertise.



The Glow Room featured a wide variety of fluorescing minerals from around the world and an excellent display of antique uranium-bearing glassware.

The show also featured a kids corner staffed by teachers from the Livermore area schools, an extensive sand collection displayed and demonstrated under microscope by Bill Beiriger, a silent auction of Lithophile club member rock slabs, and an hourly door prize for show visitors. There was a terrific turnout of Lithophile and other northern California club members' collections for a total of 24 display cases. Collections ranged from fossils to gems, and lapidary method demonstrations to finished cabochons set in findings. Of course the other main attractions of the show were a total of seven vendors selling a wide selection of mineral specimen, beads and beadworks, fossils of all types, and finished jewelry.





Wayne Meissner graciously answering the curious children's endless questions.



Carol Wilson teaching young ones about free-hand carving, and Derek Ibarra tirelessly demonstrates his adept silver wrapping skills.



Preston Bingham and his wife Carol break from bead-making long enough to give a smile to the camera.





The show was a big success due mostly to the time and generosity of a number of club members. In particular, Dick Friesen arranged for all the demonstrators and display case volunteers, Diana Carey setup and ran the kitchen, Gayla Langlois provided the setup dinner, Joan Beiriger did the decoration, and Bill Beiriger coordinated the kids corner, publicity, show setup and take down, etc., etc., etc. Even though I was officially the “show chair”, I was actually the “show chair” apprentice. The actual show is created and produced by all those experienced club members who come out each year to teach us newer members and show us how to make the event successful. Particular thanks go to Jane Crone, Nancy Bankhead, Rich and Chris Hunt, Albert Hess, Pat Iannucci, Sue Fernandez, Bob Trimingham, Doris Colonna, Frank Gouveia, Bill Bish, and Shelley Buchberger for their valuable help on both days of the show.









# California Shows And Events

## 2013

### February 2-17: Tucson, AZ

Wholesale and Retail Show,  
The Rock Show, Kino Sports Complex  
2500 E. Ajo Way  
Daily 9:30 - 5:30, free admission  
Contact Trym Gibbons 800-983-0133  
e-mail: rockshowtucson@gmail.com

### March 1 - 3: Newark, Ca Mineral & Gem society of Castro Valley

Fri. & Sat. 10-6pm, Sun. 10-5  
Newark Pavillion  
6430 Thornton Ave  
Cathy Miller cdmiller59@gmail.com  
www.mgscv.org

### March 9 - 10: Turlock, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society of California

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA  
Hours: 10 - 5 Daily  
Contact: Bud and Terry McMillin 209-524-3494  
e-mail: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com  
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

### March 9 - 10: Spreckels, Ca. Salinas Valley Rock & Gem

10-5pm daily  
Spreckle's Vets Hall  
5th & Llano sts.  
Karen Saloman 831-375-5233  
Kcbakes27@yahoo.com

### March 16 - 17: Vallejo, Ca Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

10-5pm daily  
Solano county fairgrounds  
900 Fairgrounds Dr.  
Dan Wolke 707-745-1816

### March 23 - 24: ANGELS CAMP, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society,

Calaveras  
County Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Road Hours: Sat 10 - 5;  
Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277  
Email: amy95247@yahoo.com Web-  
site:  
www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

### March 23-24: Roseville, CA Roseville Rock Rollers

Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Rd.  
Hours: Sat., 10 - 5 and Sun., 10 - 4  
Contact: Gloria Marie, 530-367-2262  
email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@  
gmail.com  
Website: www.rockrollers.com

### May 31-June 2: Ventura, CA

**CFMS Federation Show**  
Ventura Co. Fair Grounds  
10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA  
Fri.,-Sat., 10 - 5; Sun., 10 - 4  
Contact Rob Sankovich 805-494-7734  
e-mail: rmsorca@adelphia.net

**November 16 & 17, 2013** Livermore  
LITHORAMA 2013 Show and Sale,  
**Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem  
& Mineral Society;** The 'BARN' 3131  
Pacific Ave. east of Livermore Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Visit us  
at our website www.lithophiles.org

Show information is available at the Cali-  
fornia Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
website: www.cfmsinc.org

#### Additional Resources:

American Federation of Mineralogical  
Societies website: www.amfed.org

American Lands Access Association  
website: www.amerlands.org

CO-OP website: www.coop.freeservers.com

## Field Trips

## Livermore Valley Lithophiles

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info@lithophiles.com

We're on the Web at [www.lithophiles.org](http://www.lithophiles.org)

**MEMBERS  
DUES ARE DUE**



## Elected Officers and Club Information

### Elected Officers:

**President** Rich Hunt (925) 443-5525  
**V. President** Lee Davisson (925) 371-0699  
**Secretary** Larry Patzkowski (925) 426-7768  
**Treasurer** Shelley Buchberger (925) 292-7122

**Membership:** The Livermore Valley Lithophiles invites to its membership anyone genuinely interested in minerals, gems, lapidary, geology or any of the other earth sciences, and who desires association with others of like interests. Membership in our club consists of three classes: Senior, anyone eighteen years or older; Junior, anyone under eighteen; and Honorary. Dues are for the calendar year and are as prescribed in the by-laws, Article III. \$25.00 per family, \$20.00 per individual and \$10.00 for Juniors (twelve and older.)

**Meetings:** General Meeting – Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (**Locations change goto Lithophiles WEB-SITE**). Board Meeting – Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Club Shop or to be announced in the *Lithogram*. Any special meetings or places will be published in the *Lithogram*.

**Club Shop:** The shop at the Barn is open to club members 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. on Tuesday nights. If no one arrives by 7:30 p.m.. or if the Shop Foreman has not been informed a member will arrive late, then the shop will close at 7:30 p.m. Shop Foreman, OPEN.

**Field Trips:** Location and date will be published in the *Lithogram*.

**Bulletin:** *Livermore Lithogram*. Published monthly and mailed or emailed to active members and guests. News of interest, reports and articles must be received by the first Tuesday of the month. Articles may be reprinted by giving proper credit.

**Editor:**  
Bill Beiriger,  
Livermore, CA 94551-0626,  
email: info@lithophiles.com

**Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM**

**General Meeting Feb. 14th, at 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting Feb. 28th, 7:30, At the SHOP**