



SHALE MAIL

SEPTEMBER 2020

Orange County Mineral Society, Inc

[OCMS Website](#)

[OCMS Facebook Page](#)



Our next meeting is our annual Rock BBQ Meeting and is scheduled for Saturday September 5th, 2020 at Noon but we would appreciate people coming early to help with set-up, Thanks.

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Presidents Message

By: Michael G Tedford, MD, MS, MBA

Calling all members to the annual Rock Barbecue, Games, and Mineral sale/swap for OCMSNY members this Saturday 5 September 2020. The Hansen Park Pavilion is reserved and features a kitchen and bathrooms. Please respond to Ron Nelson's request for headcount ASAP so we can have an idea how much to supply in regard to ribs, burgers, chicken and dogs. Please bring a dish of your choice of salad, dessert, veggies, beverages so Ron can be sure we are covered. Also please remember to bring your own bug repellent, hand sanitizer, mask. We will have hand sanitizer at the buffet table and kitchen. Please remain healthy and safe because we miss your company. and want to see you in person. There is a ball field, lawn for bocci, horse shoe pits and more for your pleasure. All our members are welcome to set out a table - bring your own- or two to show and sell or trade. We have ample picnic table space for the members to space out for outdoor dining under the pavilion. Please have a mask if you are unable to maintain safe social distances.

Thank you to Mark Kucera who presented at late notice a great show of superb photos of part of his collection. He also gave a great summary presentation of Wildacres. If you missed it, ask Mark to show again, because it is worth all of us seeing that part of the EFMLS tradition.

Hoping to see you all Saturday, Set up can begin any time in the morning and serious preparations are underway by 11 AM. Since we have so many vendors/ prospectors / dealers/ collectors we will probably be seeing some fairly unique and recent finds..



BBQ Information!

Good afternoon! Our annual Picnic is right around the corner. Maggie has made a list of things we need that you can bring. We are striving to avoid duplicates. The list is as follows:

- **potato salad**
- **mixed salad**
- **Chile**
- **Ice**
- **bottled water**
- **your personal specialty**
- ***macaroni salad**
- ***fruits or fruit salad**
- ***vegetable tray**
- ***assorted canned soda**

Maggie & I will bring all the meats, condiments plates and forks and spoons and charcoal and lighter. So we can keep track of everyone and what they're bringing please use my email address (rn33@optimum.net) to let me know what you intend on bringing.

Thank you and we'll see you all there! Remember, only members can attend for insurance reasons!

Thanks! Ron



When: September 5, 2020

Where: Hansen Memorial Park

For those of you with **GPS** the coordinates are:

Latitude: 41.3347222

Longitude: -74.5688889

GNIS ID: 2440154

Minutes of the Meeting

August 14, 2020

By: John Pacut

Aug 14th Minutes: Read by Ron Nelson and approved

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Ron Nelson and accepted.

Committee Reports: Brigitte Nesterok has joined the membership committee so we can start sending her new membership stuff.

Webmaster/FB: N/A

Programs: Under the circumstances Mike said we would be using Zoom for future meetings. Invites will be sent via email each month, we encourage everyone to join us. When the status changes concerning our meeting we will email the information out as well as post it in the Shale Mail.

Show Report: Ron sent out refunds to all the vendors, however 12 of them opted to leave their money with us for next year's show.

Membership Report: Ron reminded everyone that the date you joined the club is your renewal date each year.

Shale Mail Report: Alison is looking for articles from members & Officers on any topic you like. Please email your articles to her.

Old business: Our rock picnic is September 5th at Hansen Park. People that want to help can show up at 9 am. Bring pot luck dishes, email Ron what you will bring. The actual picnic will start at 12 pm.

New business:

Thank You! Mark Kucera

By: Alison Pacut

Mark saved the day again! He is our hero after our 1st scheduled speaker had a car accident making it impossible for her to present at our meeting & our stand in speakers schedule was conflicting, Mark stepped up to save the day!



Mark gave a really nice presentation on sulfides. According to Mindat there are 483 sulfides and although Mark was not able

to touch on them all, I learned an incredible amount of stuff and surprised myself on the ones I was able to identify.

After the completion of Mark's presentation he did a little advertising about Wildacres. Now I don't know about you but this is one place I have always wanted to visit. They have 2 sessions a year, one in the spring and the other in the fall, however Covid-19 caused the cancellation of the spring session this year but hopefully the fall session is on.

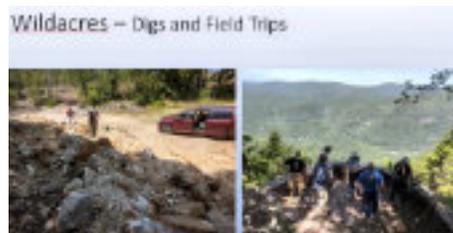


The spring session would have cost a mere \$435 per person, which includes your room, the class and your food. The only extra charge is the supplies you need for your class which can range from

\$10 - \$110 or there about. Now tell me where can you get a tech free week long vacation for that kind of money. I say tech free because there are no tv's, internet service and there is barely any cell service. To learn more about



wildacres visit: <https://efmls.org/wildacres/>



Gold Mining Ghost Town, CA

By: Keith (Chip) Allen

Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Visitors can walk down the deserted streets of a town that once had a population of nearly 10,000 people. Bodie today is a town frozen in time, and preserved in a state of “arrested decay.” Bodie became a State Historic Park in 1962, and maintains the buildings just as they were found when the State took over the town – but they do not restore the buildings, instead choosing to simply preserve the buildings in their aged and weathered 1880s appearance. That sit as they were left when the remaining population left town.

In 1859 William (a.k.a. Waterman) S. Bodey discovered gold near what is now called Bodie Bluff. A mill was established in 1861 and the town began to grow. It started with about 20 miners and grew to an estimated 10,000 people by 1880! By then, the town of Bodie bustled with families, robbers, miners, store owners, gunfighters, prostitutes, and people from every country in the world. At one time there was reported to be 65 saloons in town. Among the saloons were numerous brothels and ‘houses of ill repute’, gambling halls and opium dens – an entertainment outlet for everyone.



On a daily basis miners would emerge from the mills and head for the bars and the red light district to spend their earnings. The mixture of money, gold and alcohol would sometimes prove fatal. Newspapers reported that townspeople would ask in the mornings “Have we a man for breakfast?” Meaning ‘Did anyone get killed last night?’

There’s a story about a little girl whose family was moving to Bodie. who, depending on who tells it,

wrote in her diary either: “Good, by God, I’m going to Bodie” -or- “Goodbye God, I’m going to Bodie.”

When mining began to decline along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, prospectors began to cross the eastern slope in search of their fortunes. One such man named William (aka: Waterman) S. Bodey, discovered gold near a place that is now called Bodie Bluff in 1859. Alas, the poor man died in a snowstorm that very winter and never saw the new town that would be named after him.

In 1861 the Bunker Hill Mine was established as well as a mill, though the camp was called home to only about 20 miners. Bodie grew slowly and remained an insignificant mining camp for 17 years. The Bunker Hill Mine and Mill, on the west slope of Bodie Bluff, changed hands several times during the years before being sold to four partners in 1877. The name was changed to the Standard Mining Company and within months the partners discovered a significant vein of rich gold ore. Profits rose dramatically and by the end of 1878 Bodie’s population had soared to some 5,000 people. The Standard Mine would yield nearly 15 million dollars in gold over the next 25 years.

Miners, gamblers, and business continued to flood the area and by 1879, Bodie boasted a population of about 10,000 and 2,000 buildings. Before long the town supported some 30 gold mines, 65 saloons, numerous brothels, gambling halls, and opium dens, as well, as a number of legitimate businesses, including three newspapers, several churches, a couple of banks and a school. Every other building on the mile-long main street was a saloon. Three breweries worked day and night, while whiskey was brought into town in 100-gallon barrels.



Gold Mining Ghost Town, CA-Cont.

By: Keith (Chip) Allen

Like many booming mining camps, Bodie soon earned a reputation for violence and lawlessness. Killings were sometimes daily events and robberies, stage holdups and street fights were common occurrences in the camp. In its day, Bodie was more widely known for its lawlessness than for its riches. Of Bodie, the Reverend F.M. Warrington would describe it in 1881 as “a sea of sin, lashed by the tempests of lust and passion.”

The boom was over just four short years later and by 1882, Bodie started to decline. Its population had dropped to just 3,000 as several smaller mining companies went bankrupt and people began to leave the area in search of better opportunities.

The two major mines — the Bodie and the Standard, merged in 1887 and continued to operate successfully for the next two decades. While the boom lasted, some 30 companies produced \$400,000 in ore per month for an overall total estimated at \$90 to \$100 million.

In 1892 a fire ravaged much of the business district, further depleting Bodie’s population. Additional mines began to close. However, the very next year Bodie became one of the first mining camps to use electricity. Another fire destroyed the Mill in 1898, but it was rebuilt the following year.



By 1915, most of the important mines were controlled by James Stewart Cain who had arrived in Bodie when he was just 25 years old. Soon after his arrival, he entered the lumber business transporting



timber on barges across Mono Lake. He would grow so successful that he eventually would own the Bodie bank, leased the Mono Lake Railway & Lumber Company (formerly known as the Bodie and Benton Railroad,) became the town’s principal property owner, and the owner of the Standard Mill. However, the Standard Mill was closed around 1916 and just a year later the Bodie and Benton Railway was abandoned.

In 1932 another devastating fire, caused by a 2 1/2-year-old boy playing with matches, destroyed 95% of Bodie’s buildings. However, a few people continued to live in Bodie until after World War II, when the last producing, mine, the Lucky Boy was shut down.

By then only six people were left in the old settlement and five of these would soon die untimely deaths. First, one of the men shot his wife and after she died, three men killed the murdering husband. According to legend, the ghost of the murdered man would visit the three men, shaking his fist. Soon, all three would die of strange diseases.

In 1962, after years of neglect, Bodie became a State Historic Park, and two years later the ghost town of Bodie was dedicated as a California Historic Site. It has also been designated a National Historic Site. Today, with the gold mining days of California a distinct memory with almost 200 abandoned wooden buildings in a state of "arrested decay" to photograph and explore. Peek in the windows of the church, schoolhouse, barbershop and saloon, where bottles, desks and other relics remain just as they were abandoned.

Covid-19 Field Trip Safety

By: Alison Pacut & Rick Cernak

I was invited to attend the “Field Protocol/ Covid Safety & Insurance Q & A” meeting on Zoom, Thursday August 13th, 2020. The presentation was hosted by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies.

Staying safe while out collecting is imperative during this time of trial whether your collecting on your own or with your fellow society members.

My article will focus on the presenter Rick Cernak and the message he had for all of us.

Rick Cernak may be best known to the mineral collecting community as the active manager at The Betts Manganese Mine in Plainfield, MA. During the winter of 2013-2014, Rick wrote the successful minerals program for Earthdance, a non-profit organization and a landowner of The Betts Mine. He continues as the volunteer minerals coordinator and director of the fee mine program which permits mineral collecting visits by individual collectors and mineral club field trips.

Rick continues his involvement in various projects such as the Alvan G. Barrus Project at the classic lithium pegmatite (goshenite type occurrence) in Goshen, MA; and writing health and safety policy for the mines at which he's involved. Rick is currently working on Coronavirus Policy, Protocols, and Guidelines recommendations along with David Nock and Andy Brodeur of the Eastern Land Access Council of EFMLS. He expects these should be available to all member mineral societies by August 31, 2020.

Rick is affiliated with the Department of Geosciences at UMASS, Amherst, with which he has coauthored scientific journal articles on studies demonstrating the absence of potentially toxic concentrations of bioavailable metals in soils at former mine sites in western Massachusetts, including The Betts Manganese Mine. These papers were published in Environmental Geochemistry and Health, a Springer Publication, in 2019 and 2020. More information can be found by Googling: Richard S Cernak Sr Manganese.

Rick typically belongs to 3 or 4 mineral clubs. He has recently been most active in the Worcester Mineral Club (WMC) in which he has been serving as chairman of the Nominating Committee. During the spring months of 2020, he took on the challenge of reformatting the bylaws of WMC. Rick said it can be a daunting task that no one ever wants to take on, but a stay-at-home order was just what he needed to find the time to continue work on going one step further to overhaul the WMC bylaws. By mid-May, with input from the past president and the current Executive Committee members, he completed correcting and successfully updating the bylaws of WMC with the assistance of fellow committee members Sara Furbush and Maggie Serra!

Rick Cernak graduated from Williston-Northampton School in 1976 and earned his Bachelors of Science at UMass, Amherst in 1981. Rick was the Health and Safety Officer while serving as President at Cernak Fuel Corp. in Easthampton, MA, from 1987 until his retirement from the petroleum distillate business in 2018. He has been certified in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, Confined Space Entry, EPA Class B Facility Operator, Massachusetts Certified Oil Burner Technician and Licensed Hoist Engineer, and CDL Driver with the HAZMAT endorsement, in addition to being a HAZMAT trainer for decades.

Rick enjoys historical and mineralogical research on mineral deposits, writing, networking with others having common interests, and educating, especially when hosting field trips at The Betts Mine and The Barrus Pegmatite Locality, both of which are within 15 miles of his residence. He was impressed with Bob Whitmore's and more recently Scott Higgins' tours of The Palermo Mine in North Groton, NH, and uses their model as a base for educating participants on the field trips he's hosting. Go to <https://www.earthdance.net/visit/minerals> for more information on The Betts Mine program. Rick can be reached at ricksrocksracks@gmail.com.

Covid-19 Field Trip Safety **Cont.**

By: Alison Pacut & Rick Cernak



Rick Cernak working on a spessartine garnet rock at The Betts Manganese Mine, September 21, 2019

As Rick began his presentation it became apparent to me that most of what he was saying was plain common sense. However over the years we develop bad habits the more familiar we become with our work and in this time of covid we need to be extremely vigilant

Using a spray bottle and water Rick demonstrates just how far droplets from a sneeze can actually travel. With a slight breeze the water droplets traveled about 15 feet. Click on the photograph or the link to watch the video for yourself



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= YDYHCuKzWM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDYHCuKzWM&feature=youtu.be)

Now that you have watched the “Hazard Awareness Water Aerosols & Droplets Demonstration” you have seen what happens when we sneeze. Social distancing and wearing masks is extremely important even when we are outdoors.

The experts recommend maintaining a 6 ft social distancing span however 6 ft is not enough as you witnessed in the video. Rick Cernak suggests maintaining a 10 ft span of distance from you nearest neighbor in the field. The only exception are the family members who live in your home. In this case your household can hound together. If you find its really windy where your collecting you may find you want more than 10 feet away from the next party.

Don't forget to wear your mask when wandering from place to place. If your collecting or hammering in a stationary spot and have at least a 10 ft distance from your neighbor feel free to remove your mask so you can breath easier.

Gloves are an important part of covid PPE as well. Make sure your wearing them to share specimens with friends or showing them what you collected. Don't touch anything someone else may have touched without your gloves protecting your hands.

Be aware of everything when you are collecting. Some of us may have disgusting habits that we need to be aware of like blowing our nose. Not only do we need to watch that we don't leave our dirty tissue's laying around but we need to watch for other peoples too. If your a rock licker, don't now that Covid-19 is here it may kill you. Many collecting sites that we often frequent don't have johnny on the spots so we have to improvise. We all have to go at one time or another but please make sure its not were are fellow rock hounds will start digging for rocks. Yuck!

Emergencies are rare but do happen when we are out enjoying our hobby so lets be smart about it. Know where you are! The club leader needs to have an emergency plan in place. This plan needs to include what to do if there is no cell phone service.



RECOMMENDED OUTLINE FOR FIELD TRIP CORONAVIRUS POLICY



It is highly recommended that each society draft its own Coronavirus Policy. This OUTLINE has been prepared as a tool to help get you started.

Your WRITTEN POLICY should have the primary objectives of

- A) Health and Safety of All
- B) Keep Collecting Sites Open to Mineral Society Field Trips

PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership

Executives, Trustees, or Directors

Field Trip Committee

Field Trip Leaders

Field Trip Participants

TRAINING

Field Trip Committee

Health and Safety Officer (or program chair)

Field Trip Leaders

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

OCMS Disclaimer

The editor and the OCMS are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticities of information in the articles accepted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the officers of the OCMS or the editor.



Directory of Rock Shops and Geology Attractions

[Virtual Museum of Geology](#)

[National Museum of Natural History](#)

[The Natural History Museum](#)

[The World Wide Museum of Natural History](#)

[Geo-science Education](#)

[Home Hobby's Rock Collecting](#)