

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY



*Annual Show
Coming
March 12 & 13*

FEATURE ARTICLES

AGATE WEBSITE

BENCH TIPS
YOU CAN USE!

**NEW
MEETING
TIME & PLACE**

**DETAILS ON PAGES
2 & 7**

This month's feature stone is the California State Gem !

Benitoite (beh-NEE-toe-ite) is a rare gem that was first discovered in 1906 along the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California. This small region is the only source in the world for gem quality Benitoite. Because of its rarity and beauty, Benitoite was adopted as California's state gemstone in 1985.

Benitoites have often been mistaken for fine blue sapphires and spinels due to their rich blue-violet colors. Benitoites tend to be found in smaller sizes with gems larger than one carat being the exception. Larger gems with rich color and exceptional quality are greatly prized by collectors. The one pictured here is described as a "Fancy Trillium" cut with rich blue-violet hue and dark tone of moderate saturation. It weighs 1.83 carats and is 6.9 millimeters in diameter. Scott Forrest of WSF Gems, who gave us the photo and permission to use it in this article, describes it as "very well cut with nice dispersion and high luster".

W. Scott Forrest is second-generation in the mining and gemstone business. His father and his father's partner owned the "Benitoite Gem Mine". After faceting Benitoite and other precious stones for them, Scott began to sell his own and opened WSF Gems in Old Town Clovis. He still facets most of them himself to maximize their beauty and value. He invites fellow jewelry and lapidary enthusiasts to visit his store or to shop at his web site. You can see this gem and others at www.wsfgems.com.

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President's Message



Welcome to our new members! This year is shaping up as one of opportunities and changes. We are in the process of moving our meetings to a new location and we are exploring the possibility of holding our 2012 Show at another venue as well. This month the general meeting will be held at the Pasadena Public Library (see address, date & time below). The auditorium is at the

West end of the building to the left of the sign out desk as you walk in. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Please come to the Workshop to help fill grab bags for our show and turn in a prize for the raffle. There is still plenty of time to polish up a rock or string some beads or wire wrap a specimen. We all need to sell as many raffle tickets as possible in advance because that is the only profit we make at the show. Please also sign up at the meeting to put some of your treasures in a show

display case. Tony and Sandy Fender will explain how to set up a case at the club meeting and it only takes a few items to make an interesting presentation.

The most important donation you can make to our club is to help at the show! See page 4 for where we need help. You don't have to be busy for the whole show but a few hours during the two days will make the show a success. Thanks in advance for your help. We can't keep up our great club without your help! ... *Chris Kyte, President*

Meeting and General Information

Officers

Chris Kyte, President
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ckyte60@att.net

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Mark Nelson, Treasurer
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Newsletter Articles or corrections should be sent to the editor: **Mark Nelson**, 1475 Paseo Maravilla, San Dimas, CA, 91773. (909) 996-1784 or to mnelsonair@aol.com

December Board Meeting by Cheryl Lopez

The board discussed distributing plastic brochure holders to our bulletin advertisers and working on updating our information brochures. It was approved to renew our application to use the Meeting Room at One West Bank. It was suggested that we encourage "Stump The Experts" - people bringing their unknown rocks to meetings.

February Meeting

Don't be afraid to enter a display case at the March 12 & 13 Annual Show. The things you find interesting are also those that our visitors will find interesting!

At the February meeting Tony Fender will demonstrate how to set up a case and that it only takes a few items to make an interesting presentation.

Bring your questions and you will leave feeling empowered and able to enter an attractive display at the 2011 Show!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday February 24th

LOCATION: Pasadena Central Library

STARTS AT 7:00 PM

Membership Information and Meeting Locations

Membership per calendar year is \$20, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and third or more members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2.50 per person and membership badges are \$7.50. Renewals are due by the December General Meeting. Mail membership checks to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

Board Meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the One West Bank at the northeast corner of Santa

Anita and Foothill in Arcadia. All PLS members are welcome to attend.

General Meetings. This month's meeting will be at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street in Pasadena at 7:00 pm. Guests are welcome!

Field Trips are scheduled each month. Refer to the newsletter for weekend and location.

Workshops are offered in our well-equipped shop in Pasadena to all members for

a nominal fee - normally on the first Sunday of each month. Refer to the newsletter for hours and the calendar for date. Eye protection and closed-toe shoes are mandatory for all participants.

Workshops and field trips are for adult members and children with direct parental supervision.

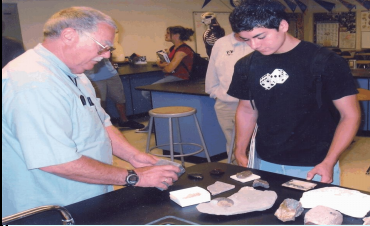
The Annual Club Show is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.



Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

BY ED IMLAY



Ed Imlay at local schools

Visits to the second grade classes at K. L. Carver School in San Marino on January 24 and 25 were very well received. I would like your referral to your local elementary school or one where a family member attends!

For the February meeting, please display any items of general interest, especially: workshop projects, material from locations of recent or upcoming field trips, and examples of the birthstone of the month: **Amethyst**.

Welcome New Members !!

The Pasadena Lapidary Society salutes our new members! Please join us in welcoming **Charlotte Bane** with whom we are familiar from numerous field trips. She has a reputation for finding good stones right outside her car door!

Welcome also **Ralph Fregoso** who joins his wife, Becky, as a member. They consider themselves new to the lapidary hobby but are enthusiastically building a small workshop at their home to enjoy nature's creations! Ralph says he is looking forward to helping at the show next month - setting an example for all of us!



DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN !
Rockhound Ramblings has been nominated to receive an award by the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**. **Don't miss an issue!**

If in doubt as to whether or not your dues have been received, call the Membership Chair, Marléné Kyte at (626) 794-0519 - or the Treasurer, Mark Nelson at (626) 996-1784.

Thank You to Robert Housley for pre-paying his 2012 dues !

ANNUAL CLUB SHOW

By Chris Kyte

We will only have the February and March workshops to make on our preparations so please come on out and create a prize or two for the raffle! We also need help at the show! Helping at the show is a great way for new members to get involved and to meet the other members. I am calling on every member to help in some way to make this year's show a community and financial success. We need help in several areas, and both myself and Cheryl, our Secretary, will be calling members to lend a hand.

The areas that we need help with are listed in detail on page 4.

Please sell or buy raffle tickets! These tickets represent our profit on the show and it is our only chance of the year to realize this income. A nice prize will be presented to the person who sells the most tickets!

WORKSHOP

By Drew Wilson



Our monthly workshop will be **one week later than normal**, on February 13th, due to Sports Widows Day (Super Bowl 45). The time is from 1:30 pm until 5:00 pm (no early birds, please).

Please come and help us stuff Grab Bags for the Show!

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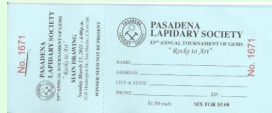
Annual Club Show March 12th & 13th

Your Help Is Needed By Marcia Goetz, Co-Chair

As of the first of February, these are the areas where we still need volunteers:

Selling raffle tickets.

I'm asking every member to sell \$100 worth of raffle tickets. This is a make-or-break time for our club's finances. This year the club will award a special prize to the person who sells the most tickets. I hope it is YOU! Sell them for 6 for \$5 or 120 tickets for only \$100. If you need tickets to buy, call or email me and someone will get them to you!



Raffle Donations of nice jewelry or lapidary creations for the Raffle.

Treasure Wheel & Silent Auction -

Rudy Lopez and Mark Nelson are working on something new this year - a Treasure Wheel and a Silent Auction - both are fast-paced and fun. The Treasure Wheel would allow people of all ages to pay 50¢ to participate in a game and walk away with an interesting rock, fossil or other item. Every spin results in a win! They need donations for the game of polished, drusy or interesting rocks that children would enjoy.



The Silent Auction will end every 30 minutes. They need things like slabs, crystals, rock hammers, videos, tools and identified rock specimens that the public and other rock collectors would like to bid on. If you have items to donate, please call Mark Nelson at 909-592-1322 and leave a message with your name, the item and we'll call you to make arrangements to come by and pick them up. They also need help spinning the wheel and refilling the auction items. This is a great job for couples, you, your adult children, family and friends. Call Marcia to volunteer.

Snack Bar. Helping Chris Kyte and Briana Casay prepare and sell simple food and drinks in the Snack Bar and to periodically empty trash cans in the building.

Front Door greeters. This is especially fun - and equally important. When visitors arrive they are looking for direction and an explanation of what to see

and where to go. They will all buy a raffle ticket (or 6 for \$5), if asked, and will want to get a grab bag! This is a great way to give a good impression to prospective new members and to generate revenue for the club!



Membership Information Table.

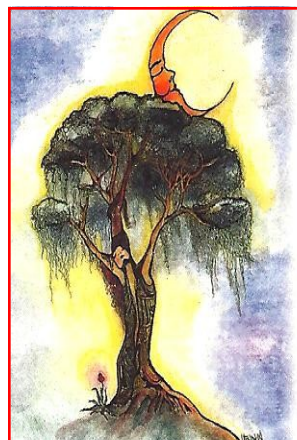
To my way of thinking, this is one of the most important and enjoyable jobs. Everyone coming to the show is interested in lapidary or jewelry making. This job simply gives our visitors someone to tell them how PLS can help them enjoy the hobby! The person at the desk gives out club information, answer questions, hands out membership applications and collects applications and checks from potential new members! How fun is that! Sylvia and Vern Cliff are taking this opportunity to teach new members how to do this job from their years of experience. Working with them is a pleasure in itself!

Please let me know if you have a specific place that you would like to help during the show. If you would like to pick your assignment before Chris, our President, calls you - please call me at (626) 914-5030 or email me at joenmar1@verizon.net. I appreciate it !!

Did you know that March 13th celebrates not only the 2011 PLS annual Show in San Marino, California, but is also the 142nd anniversary of one of the greatest discoveries of all time? Details in the March Bulletin!

... *Marcia*

Thank You to Wendy Ansel of Rocks & Runes for referring new members to the Pasadena Lapidary Society. Members are encouraged to patronize the businesses of our sponsors!



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Wendy Ansel

A Pasadena Lapidary Society Member



NEW AGATE WEBSITE

Jason Badgley has announced the opening of his new website dedicated to the beauty of agates. The website should be a resource to collectors and students alike. Among the many photographs on the website are both polished and unpolished agates, agates in the rough and cut slabs.

Jason is a member of the Pasadena Lapidary Society and is the co-chair of the club's Workshop. He is always available at the Workshop to give advice on how to best cut a stone to yield the best view of the stone matrix inside.

When your editor questioned him about why he created the website, Jason replied "I love collecting agates in the field and enjoy making extended trips to find these stones. As an agate collector I have lots of agates that I have found - so many that they are starting to take up a lot of display space at home. To save display space and to share some of my California agates with the world I am taking them off of the shelves, photographing them and putting them on the website. Many of these agates are little-known".

You can see the wonderful agates and have the opportunity to purchase them at Jason's new web site:
www.californiaagategallery.com

Tips From the Experts at "Bench Tips"

ON STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16ga. If you're working on thick wires and pulling hard, be sure to brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers. ... Brad Smith

§ § § §

Hoi, Bench Tipppers! I straighten wire up to 2mm (12ga.?) by pulling it through a draw plate. Start with a bigger hole and finish with a hole that has the diameter of your wire gauge. Have fun! ... Kiffer

§ § § §

I used to kink up a lot of wire, wire-wrapping cabs. About one wrap in 10 would come out looking good, so I straightened a lot of wire for do-overs.

Grab each end of your wire with a pliers, and drag it back and forth over the corner of your bench pin, or any other handy block of wood. The technique looks similar to the buffing technique employed by a corner shoe-shine professional, only you go nice and slow, and it takes about 3 strokes. I guess another analogy would be "similar to the technique we use to curl Christmas wrapping ribbon".

The nice thing about this technique, over using a draw-plate or the rolling mill, is that you don't need to re-anneal the wire after straightening. ...Thomas Clark

§ § § §

SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

By Brad Smith from Bench Tips


The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I often take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It's also colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop!



Silver wire, tools and display supplies are available wholesale to PLS members at A&A Jewelry Supply. Show them this article when you go!



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FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



I hope everyone had a great time at January's field trip to the Quartzsite Pow Wow. I'm sorry it only comes once a year!

In February we will have the opportunity to participate in two interesting field trips.

Kramer Junction - February 19th and 20th. Multi-club trip. We will go to the Kramer Junction area to collect various types of agates, jaspers and opalites with a potential to find peat bog. Much of this material is fluorescent. This is set up to accommodate those preferring to camp overnight, but with only 2 hours driving this is easily accessible as a one-day trip. We will meet each day at 8:30 am in the large dirt turn-out south of the curio shop that is next to the (Roadhouse ?) restaurant and gas station on the south-east corner of U.S. 395 and CA-58 to register and sign waivers.

The terrain is mostly flat with decent desert roads. High clearance recommended but not mandatory. Collecting material is plentiful although some may require hammer and chisel. Bring collecting bags or buckets, spray bottle, water and lunch if desired. Weather is unpredictable with rain possible as well as hot temperatures. Check the forecasts and BE PREPARED! If you have questions or plan to attend, call me at (626) 914-5030 or email me at joenmar1@verizon.net so I can update you if plans change and to suggest camping spots.

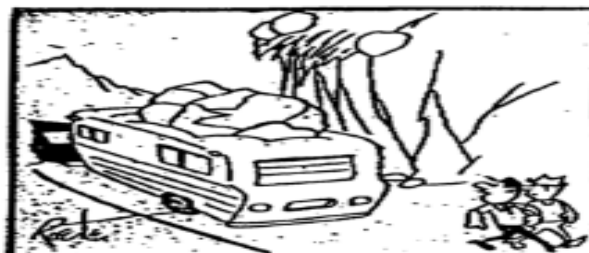
Santa Monica Mountains - February 26th. CFMS Trip to collect Sagenite, plume agate, marcasite, chalcedony and scallop fossils. Meet at 9am to register and sign waivers. Take U.S. 101 to Kanan Rd. Turn south toward the mountains/beach. Drive 1.7 miles on Kanan Road to a large pullout on Right (North) side of the road. Look for a CFMS sign on Robert Sankovich's white F-250 Ford Pickup 4x4 crew cab. At 1pm we will move to the second collecting site.

Expect light to moderate hiking, getting harder the more you go uphill. There can be sticky stickers and I'd recommend wearing sturdy shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, long pants, long sleeves, gloves and a wide-brimmed hat. Bring collecting bags, buckets, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, pry bar, eye protection, newspaper for wrapping fossils, drinking water, lunch and snacks. Don't forget to bring your camera!

If you have questions or want detailed maps, you can call Tony Fender, our Federation Director at 310-429-1973 or at afender@caltech.edu or you can contact the PLS Bulletin Editor.



Look for this symbol in the Calendar on page 8



Rockhounds, I presume !

FEDERATION NEWS

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Shep Koss is revising the *Rockhounding California* (Gail A. Butler) collecting site guide and is seeking help and gps coordinates for a number of sites from collectors familiar with this book and sites. Email him at freudonetoo@yahoo.com. Space is still available for the Earth Science Studies week at Zzyzx on March 27th. FYI: Next year's Zzyzx week will start April 1st, 2012.

The 2011 CFMS Show and Convention is May 13, 14 & 15 in Anderson, California. Information on this show and other Federation news is available at www.cfmsinc.org.

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The AFMS is asking that our club, with its wealth of expertise (ie: Jason Badgley's agates), write articles of interest to other lapidary enthusiasts. If you have an area where you think you can offer interesting information you can contact the bulletin assistance person, Linda Jaeger by email at LjgrAlg@aol.com or at 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137, for help in presenting your topic for maximum effect. Articles should be sent to the editor - Carolyn Weinberger PO Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 editor@amfed.org. To view typical articles, go to the website - <http://www.amfed.org/news>. Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue).



FARRIN O'CONNOR DESIGN



146 W. Bellevue Drive, Pasadena

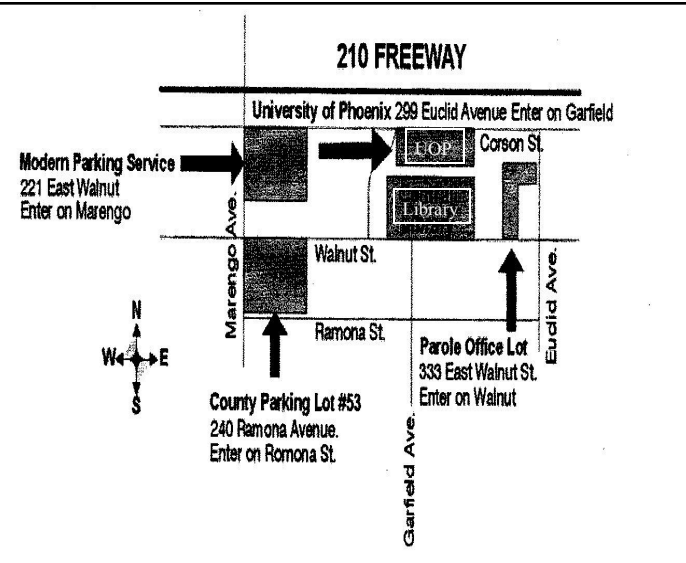
This is a true "hidden gem" for those interested in lapidary and jewelry work. A fully-stocked store with books, tools, beads and findings awaits you. Learn how to make jewelry from nothing-to-finished in their one-day classes. See upcoming classes and instructors at www.farrinoconnordesign.com/classes Or call them at (626) 796-5300. Free fenced parking.



**Directions And Parking
At The New Meeting Location
By Chris Kyte**

The Pasadena Main Library is located at 285 E. Walnut Street. To get there from the 210 freeway exit at Lake Avenue and turn south for two blocks then right on Walnut for 6-1/2 blocks.

We are not allowed to park in the lot behind the library but there are paid parking lots across Walnut next to the Police Department, on Walnut just west of the library, and on Los Robles just north of Walnut. There are also free spaces on several of the surrounding streets. The County lot has a flat \$3 rate after 4 PM and the Parole Office lot is free after 7 PM. I checked and all the streets in the vicinity now have parking meters but it appears that you don't have to pay after 5 PM.



Amethyst is the traditional birthstone for February

Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglio engraved gems. The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle. Beads of amethyst were found in Anglo-Saxon graves in England. A huge geode, or "amethyst-grotto", from near Santa Cruz in southern Brazil was exhibited at the Düssel-dorf, Germany Exhibition of 1902.



LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS:

FEBRUARY 1 - 28 - QUARTZSITE, AZ Rocks, fossils, gems, beads, collectibles and miscellaneous all over town - all month long. Wholesale prices to the public. 9am - 5pm Mountain Time daily; free admission. Camping in BLM areas or at motels 20 minutes away in Blythe, CA.

11-13 - SANTA MONICA - Gem Faire Inc.; Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass. www.gemfaire.com

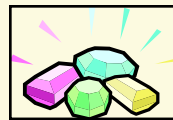
18-20 - SANTA BARBARA - Gem Faire Inc.; Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass. www.gemfaire.com

18-27 - INDIO - "Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival"; San Gorgonio & Shadow Mountain Rock Clubs at the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Gem & Mineral Bldg., 46-350 Arabia St.; 10-10 daily; adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6, children free; 16 dealers, 108 lapidary display cases, lapidary demonstrations, geode cutting and sales.

25-27 - COSTA MESA - Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center/Bldg. 10, 88 Fair Dr. Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass.

MARCH 5-6 - ARCADIA - Monrovia Rockhounds Inc.; LA County Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., 1 block south of 210 Fwy.; Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-4:30; adults \$8, seniors and students \$6, children \$3; more than 10 dealers, minerals, gems, jewelry, beads, findings, fossils, club geode cracking, Grab Bags, Treasure Wheel, Dino Dig, Fossil Find, prize drawings, grand prize raffle.

5-6 - VENTURA - Ventura Gem & Mineral Society; Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; club member displays, gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary art, demonstrations, lapidary arts, jewelry making, door prizes, silent auctions, dealers, children's activities; free admission.



Look for this symbol on the Calendar on Page 8



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**February
2011**

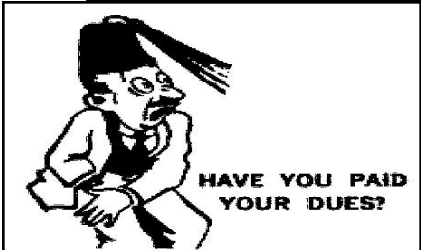
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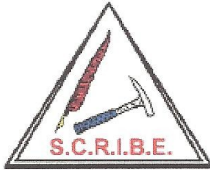


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DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!



The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

FEBRUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Board Meeting 	3	4 The Day The Music Died 1959 	5
6 Super Bowl Sunday 	7	8 Boy Scouts 1910 	9	10	11 	12 Abe Lincoln 1809 
13 Work Shop 	14	15	16	17	18 	19 
20 	21 President's Day 	22 George Washington 1732 	23	24 General Meeting Pasadena Library 	25 	26 
27	28					