Leslie Neff & Larry Hoskinson are long time South Bay members. They traveled fourteen times to the Australian opal outback.

Our pet water dragon who lived on our porch in Byron Bay, NSW prior to opal hunting.

And a Kookaburra who also came to visit

We went for one year from July 1988 till June of 1989 and we went everywhere we could in Australia. Found a book called “Finding gems and minerals in Australia” and just went to many places.

Making friends was just as important as was finding a fat sparkling an opal.

Lindsay Armstrong is a member of the Lismore Gem Club, New South Wales, our first rock we joined, in one of the rooms housing his collection of Minerals. Almost all of it self collected.

Continued on page 5
It is a profound and necessary truth that the deep things in science are not found because they are useful: they are found because it was possible to find them.

Robert Oppenheimer
August Is The Time To Lay Back And Read Something Interesting

And I found a good article in the Rock & Gem Volume Issue 07-July 2019 “Canadian Diamonds”.

When I was in grade school in Wisconsin we had a geologic engineer came in to tell us how they were building a new dam on the Chippewa River. He told us he found a small clear crystal that fascinated him. He didn’t have any instruments to test it in the boondocks so he gave it a hammer a smack. It wasn’t quartz because the hammer just broke a few chips. Quartz would have turned it into powder. I think eleven diamonds have been found in Wisconsin. After that I was always looking for one of those diamonds but no luck.

Steve Voynick - Wrote the Story - “Canada Digs Diamonds”

In 1906 George Frederick Kunz, Americans pioneer gemologist, boldly suggested – correctly, as it turned out – that glaciers had transported the gemstones from unknown sources in distant northern Canada.

Diamonds, the cubic-crystalline form of carbon, are created at extreme pressures and temperatures within the oxygen-free conditions of the Earth’s mantle at depths of 100 or more miles. To reach the surface, diamonds contained in magma must be blasted upward through long, narrow, volcanic conduits that solidify into diatremes or “pipes.” Viewed in cross-section, these pipes are shaped like inverted cones. Although narrow at depth, they broaden or “blow out” near the surface, where their diameters range from a few hundred feet to as much as a mile.

The magma that conveys diamonds upward from the mantle is a mica-rich peridotite that solidifies into a complex, intrusive rock called Kimberlite. Black Ilmenite (iron titanium oxide), green Chrome diopside Group-member (Chromium-rich calcium magnesium silicate), and the red garnet-group-member pyrope (magnesium aluminum silicate).

Geologists had suspected for diamonds in the Canada Shield. Some in the 1960’s were using airborne magnetometry surveys looking for kimberlite pipes without any luck.

In the 1980’s a guy named Chuck Fipke started prospecting. He put in his faith in using gold pans to identify trails of diamond-indicator minerals and following them to kimberlite-pipe sources.

He was posing as a gold prospector to conceal his true intent. Fipke traced 400 miles in ten years. In 1990 he found that some of the tiny crystal minerals were less alluvial wear. That told him the kimberlite pipes had to be close. Airplanes of other companies were still using flying patterns surveys over him.

Fipke felt the kimberlite pipes were close and who finds one first will claim everything. So he started staking around Point Lake 450,000 acres. Then he panned around the circular ice lake and found bright-green chrome-dioxide that showed no alluvial wear. The only way to know if there were any diamonds there it would cost a million dollars. A single 25-pound core sample yielded an astounding 81 diamonds!

In 2012 Fipke sold it out for $600 million. What a story! Get a copy of Rock & Gem if you can.
General Meeting July 2nd, 2019

Ice Cream Social and Tourmaline Dig!

1. 6:38pm Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance with Anna Robertson filling in for Jamie Erickson

2. Officer Reports
   a. President- Jamie Erickson
      i. Have fun, see you all in August!
   b. Treasurer- Eugenia Dickson/Carol Kron
      i. Received the check from the city
   c. Federation Director- Anna Robertson
      i. CMFS news, changes in rock hounding, paradise camp in Sept.
   d. Secretary- Kristina David- nothing to report
   e. Agatizer- Terry Vasseur
      i. New safety guidelines

3. 6:45pm Old Business
   a. Bartlett Center open on Saturdays, visit soon?
   b. Anna-Nancy will keep history file cabinet, Mary can take crates
   c. Leslie- Where are the show job and management folders? Reminder to secretary to send minutes to the Agatizer for approval

4. New Business
   a. Chris Curtain volunteers to reserve a spot for our annual club picnic.
   b. Leslie Neff moved to have the club picnic on September 7, Mary seconds, motion moved.

5. 6:55pm Chris Curtain gives instruction on the Tourmaline ore from the Himalayan mines in San Diego. THANK YOU CHRIS!

6. Display and Donate- Anna Robertson brought Chalcedony and Moss Agate from the Cady Mountains and rock hounding books to share with the club.

7. 7:05pm Ice Cream social time!

8. 7:15pm-8:05 DIG!

9. 8:10pm Raffle time

10. 8:20pm Thanks again Chris we had a blast!

11. Anna moved that we adjourn the meeting
    a. 210 Eugenia
       i. Meeting adjourned @8:30pm

August 2019

Refreshments:
- Teresita
- Kitty

Drinks:
- Frances

Display and Donate:
- Ken
- Anna

I didn’t think she could do it.

Really? She’s so cute and nice. Look what she did it!

Congratulations Secretary Kristina!
I asked Leslie which was the best year for opal hunting of the fourteen trips. She said it was the year that Kay and Omer Goeden came.

It was in 1992 when Kay and Omer came from Sydney to the opal outback to meet with Leslie and Larry. The plane only had four passengers and the building closed right after they arrived. There hotel bed was under ground (a dugout 1 sleeping).

But what made Larry and Leslie go to Australia in the first place?

We went the first time in July 1985 for our honeymoon. We actually were booked on a Greek cruise but at the last minute, United stopped working with that cruise line so they said, pick a place that you want to go to and we will get you there. We decided on Australia. We rented a car and drove to Byron Bay and fell in love with the country so in 1988 we took a sabbatical for one year and that is when we fell in love with opal. We started using the bag in 1990 when we needed more space, it had opal and clothes around it to protect the opals.

– Leslie Neff

Continued on page 6
This is how you Bring a hundred pounds of opal rock home, a USA Military Duffle Bag

Is This The Sydney Park Hotel?

~ The Epilogue ~

Larry & Leslie started picking opals from the mounds of the old minors who worked by hand that left some of the small sparkly minerals. Today, Larry says the new minors are running their dirt under fluorescent UV lights that will prevent losing their value opals and that is the end for the opal collector.

Well, after fourteen trips to Australia, I would think there must be some good stories to make a book.

Who The Hell Is These Two? (Can You Guess?)

At Kakadu, UNESCO World Heritage Park in Northern Territories

This was August of 1988, there first visit here.

____________________
TIPS FROM A JEWELER’S BENCH

NEW MELTING DISH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.

When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don’t forget to coat the pouring spout itself.

RING SIZE VARIATIONS

The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you’re using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same.

Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.

What’s Going On In July

Will This Spider Win At the Orange County Faire?

Only Ken Quillette Knows

My Totem Chief here seems to likes my new bola tie. Steamy July is a good time to sit out of the sun and get into your favored hobby.

Solve Problems & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith
While I do not consider myself an exceptional writer, I always end up in a position of having to come up with updates, messages, newsletters, and so on. Life doesn’t always turn out according to plan. I did not go to college for a life in the non profit sphere, but alas I have spent a considerable amount of time with non profits. I have held leadership roles, volunteered with them, and worked as an employee. A common feature I can find amongst most non profits regardless of their mission statement, is that people need help to stay positive. We would think our common interest or passion would unite us, but that is long term not always the case. When we work with people, there will always be difficulties, miscommunications, and complicated tasks. I have found a few quick points after reading up on working in volunteer based organizations that I would like to share.

1. Take time before responding to difficult correspondence, and trying not to send it either.
2. Letting go is OK- you never know what you are going to make room for.
3. Creating a positive volunteer environment is key to preventing burn out, and encouraging new volunteers to stay involved.
4. Saying thank you, even if you don’t want to.
5. This is a hard one: just because you are a volunteer, does not mean you need to take abuse.

While this is not a Geology related President’s Message, I still feel it is a valid one. Sometimes the hustle and bustle of Southern California gets the best of us during the summer months, but at the end of the day we are in it together. I hope one of my five points can be helpful to someone- I struggle with these on a regular basis myself!

I hope that you are all excited for the rest of 2019 with the SBLMS, and that we can all look forward to 2020 as a thank you for your hard work and dedication since 1948.

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This is where the stuffing goes into the turkey

I want to thank our members who gave me some writing and pictures for the Agatizer. The Agatizer is meant to keep our members know what is going on. Club editors love what they are doing but they don’t know everything. I got more than stuff I needed this month but I also needed to fill in an empty page.

Thank you Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff, Kay Goeden, Carol Kron, Craig & Kathy Polliard, Nancy Pekarek and of course I can’t forget our officers to.
The turkey Stuff
(And The Leftovers)

The Show Chair

Nancy Pekarek is worried that we may only have 15 people to work at our next year’s show and she is almost right. My latest June 2019 Roster has only 26 families but about eight of them aren’t able to work hard anymore. So we will need to know how many more workers that we will need who can do our open jobs or get rid of some stores that don’t make any money.

We aren’t the only club losing members. So keep in mind that we are the only club that I know of that has a show without vendors but it may come soon that we may have to join the clubs with vendors.

_____________________

Carol Kron sent a picture of a hand full of tourmaline and another winner

Another Winner
Me

This is what jade is found in Washington

Another Washington jade for Craig

looking for a 10 in. Saw

larry@lnholt.com

Larry
Mon, Jul 22, 2:56 PM (3 days ago)
Looking for a used/working 10 inch saw with vise and slide. Do you know of anyone in the Ventura, Santa Barbara or LA areas? I'm in the Sierra Pelona club. -Lar

I told him I had one but not for sale
What Yah Been Up to Lately?

Panning for tourmaline is fun, expressly when you can do it in your club meeting. Anyone can pan from 2 to 80 years old because messing muddy sand and water was in your hands before you could walk.

Finding a beautiful gem in a bucket from a mine is 1 in a billion scoops of dirt. Maybe in the old timers but not now. The miners today carefully take out tourmalines that were grown in patches. The roots are often dull and connected with others but they are good for a collector. If you are looking for a piece of tourmaline for the jewelry you are going to have to have it faceted anyway.