

ALAA Newsletter
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1421 Latchford Avenue
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

<http://www.amlands.org/>

April May June 2012

A.L.A.A Membership Application

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00

Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

___ New ___ Renewal Date ___/___/___

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Club Affiliations _____

Hobby Interest _____

Remit fees to: ALAA
RUTH BAILEY
2857 Addison Pl
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705
rba51825@att.net

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

April May June 2012

ALAA President's Message

ALAA at Minnetonka

By Dick Pankey, President – ALAA

It is MWF and AFMS convention time and that means that the American Lands Association will hold its annual business meeting (see the announcement for details.) This year we were able to schedule the meeting on Saturday afternoon at the show site. This will make it convenient for any and all to attend our meeting. Attending this ALAA meeting will give you an opportunity to meet Officers, Directors, State Representatives, find out first hand what we are doing and what we are planning and maybe inspire you to get involved with our activities.

There are many threats to the use and access of our public lands. Access restrictions have taken place through presidential, legislative, and Land Use Plan (LUP) decisions because we the users have not effectively represented our wants to political leaders, and have not participated fully in the LUP process. ALAA is the advocate and the leader for positive action to change the pattern of ever increasing restrictions to our use and access. Apathy and not being involved is our greatest threat. Therefore, I invite everyone attending the “Celebration of Agate” show to stop by the ALAA Info table and to attend the ALAA Meeting.

If you are an ALAA member, you have a vote and a say in the election of the ALAA Directors. If you are a member of a society that is a member of ALAA you may “officially” represent your society.

Compared to the anti-access organizations we are a small, minimally funded organization. We do not have a paid staff. We are volunteers dedicated to fighting for the rights of all rockhounds and everyone who wants to recreate on our public lands. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in our efforts to save access and retain the right to use these lands. **We need people to:**

- **Manage projects** – collecting area clean-ups and Project H.E.L.P., collecting site and access road documentation, etc.
- **Help monitor legislation**, regulatory and judicial activity in your area and report to the membership.
- **Coordinate letter/e-mail writing campaigns** – identify issues, writing how-to's, talking points, help people to get started.
- **Write articles about rockhounding**, access and recreation on public lands, etc. for newsletters and general interest publications (AARP, Good Sam and the like).
- **Be a State Rep** – liaisons between ALAA and the societies in your state. We currently have 12 states represented; we could use/we need 38 more.
- **BLM/FS liaison and advocate** – work with a local office to learn about local status and issue, and to participate in their land use planning process.
- **ALAA membership coordinator** – keep membership records (Excel skills needed), write articles promoting membership and reminding of dues, etc.

These are just examples of what we could/would be doing if we had the manpower. Do any of these interest you? Would you like to be more involved? Do they spark an idea for something else that you would like to do? Then attend the ALAA meeting at the MWF/AFMS Show in Minnetonka. Or if you just can't wait that long give me a call or send me an e-mail (925-439-7509; dickpankey@juno.com.)

We are looking for “can do/will do people!! Are you one?”

Annual Meeting at MWF/AFMS Convention

The American Lands Access Association will hold its annual meeting at the MWF/AFMS convention at Minnetonka, MN on Saturday afternoon, July 28th at 2:30 PM at the Lindbergh Center. This is the **business meeting** for ALAA where we will elect our directors and officers, have officer and committee reports, and approve our budget for the coming year. The **work** of ALAA takes place throughout the year by our officers, directors, committees, at regional Federation conventions and the actions of our members. At our annual meeting this July we will be electing 4 Directors and the 4 officers. We have had a great 2011 and 2012 is going well. Our membership is growing, and we have started some good programs with great promise. I believe that ALAA has a strong leadership team and that we should continue and build on our strengths. I hope that all officers and all directors will continue to serve.

All members of ALAA, all members of MWF and AFMS are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. I hope that all of you or as many as possible will be able to attend the MWF/AFMS show and meetings in Minnetonka, MN on July 26th to 29th. I hope to see many of you there.

Dick Pankey, President

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Have you read in the local paper or seen on the TV News about law suites against the US Forestry Service and BLM. Big words, lots of Initials and you have no clue what they are talking about. Would you like to know more but don't know where to turn for this information? I've been in contact with a group of ladies who have actually taken courses on all this. They have offered me information with the caveat I share this with you:

Here are some Governmental Speakese Acronyms:

NEPA – **National Environmental POLICY Act**
CEQ – **Council on Environmental Quality**
EIS – **Environmental Impact Statement**
EA – **Environmental Assessment**

Signed into law January 1, 1970, NEPA does not tell us to “protect” the environment. What NEPA does is tell us that we must understand the impacts and effects of the choices we make. To understand those choices, an agency has to do a study. It is supposed to be a scientific study with facts, data and logical analysis. The decision that the agency (the USFS or BLM) makes MUST be based on the facts and conclusions of the analysis in that study.

NEPA simply tells us to look at what the environmental costs are and make an informed decision. The core of NEPA is to weigh the human benefits of a proposed project with the environmental costs. NEPA does not say that the environment is more important than humans.

To implement the Congress's broad law describing what they wanted to accomplish, but with no details on how to do it, NEPA included the creation of the Council for Environmental Quality, known as CEQ. It is a permanent council in Washington that created the details for how to implement NEPA. CEQ is part of the Executive branch of government and appointed by the President.

Since 1970, the CEQ has created and refined the system. This tells the agencies how they have to study the issues and how to make decisions to balance the goals. The people on the CEQ are a bunch of scientists, so not surprisingly, they wanted to see scientific-style studies. CEQ created three levels of study. EVERY project that has “on the ground” impacts must be done as one of these three types:

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

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- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the biggest most complex and thorough study, and **requires full public participation.**
- Environmental Assessment (ES) Less complex and through than the EIS, can have less public participation.
- Categorical Exclusion (Cat Ex, or “C.E.” No formal study required (it can be a one page sheet to document something they did) no public notice of participation required at all.

When the Forest Service or BLM is doing a project, it has to decide if the project will be done as an EIS, ES or Categorical Exclusion. Every project MUST be one of these.

The Forest Service, for example, uses Cat Ex for the everyday chores like putting up signs, toilets, installing a culvert, fixing a fence, grading and maintaining roads. It’s called Cat Ex because there are categories of projects that are excluded from the requirements to do as an EIS or EA.

Is your head exploding about now from all this? Don’t be discouraged. You will eventually find all this information seeps in to your brain and pretty soon you remember all this without even having to go to your notes.

For those of you who have US FORESTS in your state: See the additional information below. It’s currently in the news.

Additional Acronyms:

TMR – Travel Management Rule
MVUM – Motor Vehicle Use Map

The MVUM is determined by a planning process which is done under NEPA (see above). That planning process is an Environmental Im-

pact Statement (EIS) done for the whole forest, or the smaller Environmental Assessment (EA) - generally used for a smaller area or smaller project. Ranger District level decisions are usually done under EA.

The TMR tells every forest to produce an MVUM which describes where vehicles are allowed, by vehicle type, and seasonal closures if applicable. The TMR does not apply to snowmobiles. The routes (trails and roads) get one of 3 designations

- Motorcycle only (single track)
- ATV and Motorcycle (under 50 inches wide). But no full sized vehicles
- All vehicles (motorcycles, ATVs and 4WD)

The TMR decisions also determine whether and where people are allowed to go off a designated route to retrieve big game (elk, deer, bear) and where people are allowed to ‘disperse camp.’ Those decisions are not shown on the MVUM.

Dispersed camping means camping out of your vehicle. In the past, the common policy was a 300 foot corridor on either side of all forest roads. You could drive into the forest, find a nice spot off the side of the road, and set up camp. Now these corridors are being challenged. Watch for further developments.

Special Thanks to the ladies of WAC, who have provided us with this information.

If you have attended Forestry or BLM meeting and felt you were on the “outside looking in” because they were speaking a foreign language, don’t be discouraged. Our aim is to give you the tools necessary to know what they are speaking.....

Shirley Leeson, ALAA VP
Rockhound Activist
shirleyleeson@cox.net

**ALAA PROGRAM AT THE
NFMS CONVENTION
Kennewick, WA May 18, 2012**

There were nineteen people present, including the speaker and his wife. While there were many ALAA members at the show, we couldn't entice them in to attending. Isn't that par for the course?

Mr. Tom Crimmins, our speaker, had 32 years as a Forestry employee. He authored "Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation." He brought an 8 page hand-out for those in the audience.

His interest is in helping individuals and organizations work with the Forestry and BLM in the Travel Management Plans which cover each piece of public land throughout the U.S..

Some of the highlights of his talk included:

- Type of Document for each Travel Management Plan
- Stage of Planning Process
- How the input will be used
- Support or Opposition
- Don't threaten, Don't get personal and Don't make accusations.
- Describe the problem
- If not "this plan" then what?
- And also the new problem: Clean Water and Clean Air

Tom was kind enough to leave us a DVD copy of his program with signed paper allowing us to use it for educational purposes for ALAA.

Special Thanks to Everett Headrick, Northern Idaho, ALAA Representative, who invited Tom Crimmins to come and speak to us. Tom is now a member of the Northern Idaho Mineral Club, thanks to Everett.

In this time when the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLLICY ACT (NEPA) is impacting rockhounds and anyone who drives off road on public lands we need to be more in-

volved. I am, are YOU?

If you would like more information on Tom's program, let me know.

Shirley Leeson, ALAA VP
Rockhound Activist
beauholland@centurytel.net

How to work the system

By Ed Mattson,
Stamford Mineralogical Society,
Stamford, CT

This article will describe a methodology to use when speaking at meetings about our hobby and access to public lands. While I live in the NYC suburbs, there are national forest lands east of the Mississippi River and smaller national park sites. The same laws and rules will apply east of the Mississippi, except there are no BLM lands.

Regardless of the issue, be it a real or proposed law, rule or bill, these methods will be effective only if pursued with bulldog tenacity. Attending one meeting and saying a sentence or two is not enough. Like hammering through granite to get to the pocket, you have to keep hammering away.

I have read articles in the ALAA newsletter concerning meetings with various lower and mid-level agents of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency and staffs of politician's offices and simply speaking at such meetings is ineffective at best.

My wife, Nancy, and I are active in the local politics of the town we live in, questioning pie-in-the-sky projects and shady dealings. We developed a network of like-minded fellow citizens who are "In the know" and can provide us with detailed background information on the issues and the people involved behind the scenes.

Nancy enjoyed the honor of having New

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How to work the system

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York's legendary politician and activist, Bella Abzug, take her hat off to her protest group. They were protesting a proposed shopping mall on the site of what is now Consumer's Reports magazine offices in Yonkers, NY. The group won their protest and stopped the mall. I am ADA handicapped and we both learned about the Americans with Disabilities Act via a neighbor, Bernadette McCann, who was involved in the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She mentored us in the fine details of dealing with the political process.

First is how YOU present yourself. Are you neat, clean, well dressed? Or are you wearing your dirtiest jeans and work boots? If you look like a bum, you will be treated as a bum. First appearances ARE important. Do you speak clearly and to the point? Do you ramble all over topics that are not what you speaking about? Do you have a thick accent of some kind? Can you handle a mike the right way?

If you want to improve your public speaking, there is an international group called Toastmasters. Toastmasters meetings are a learn-by-doing workshop in which participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a no-pressure atmosphere.

Our hobby is a specialized interest. There are nowhere near as many practioners of our hobby as with mainstream hobbies. Say you collect stamps or coins, build ship models, go skiing or tennis and everyone knows these interests.

But say you collect "rocks" and you will get a blank stare and the person will be wondering about your emotional and mental state. This is only worsened by the classic cartoon image of a "rock hound" - a bedraggled, scrawny, sunburned fellow who licks rocks to see the "Color". This damming cartoon image must done away with once and for all.

We come from all walks of life, all occupations and all parts of the country. In our every-

day jobs, we are blue and white-collar workers, retirees, Earth Science students, teachers and professors of same. We are hardworking people with an interest in various aspects of geology and the earth sciences, be it amateur or professional, be it in minerals, fossils, lapidary, Etc. Do these fit the cartoon "rockhound" image? NO!

The general public would understand our interest better if we said we collect crystals, even though there is a difference of opinion between the mineral collectors and crystal power adherents. Why? More people are interested in the metaphysical aspects of minerals than those who collect minerals for the mineral's sake and the public is more aware of this. In the professional world, the total number of people in the Earth Sciences is far smaller than in other highly technical professions.

Because our hobby is different, we MUST separate ourselves from other groups. We are NOT hikers, campers, hunters, bikers, skiers, Etc. We do share the same lands, but for different uses. However, because the other outdoor interests have so many more practitioners, suppliers and far more industry dollar value, they will drown us out at any public meetings. Even if it is a harder path, we must ask for separate public meetings or for private, one on one meetings.

At meetings, the agent(s) we are meeting with are just paid employees. The final decisions come from Washington, D. C politicians. The local agent can modify a rule or law to a small degree, but not enough to affect the law regionally or nationally. They are not the top policy makers.

The source of all decisions are Congress and/or the President's Cabinet offices. *Maybe* the local agent will make a brief mention of our concerns in a report and *maybe* it will be read in D. C., but with any bureaucracy, the effect will be lost by that time.

We need to target congress and Cabinet heads directly. Contact local, county state and federal offices. Speak out at public meetings. Write letters and articles in the newspapers and

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How to work the system

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post same on the appropriate websites. Call. E-mail. Write snail mail.

We must do deep research into the issue. At first glance, the public face of a bill or law *seems* to tell who will benefit or who proposed it. But there are always lobbyists or PAC's behind every bill. Who or what is the *real* mover behind a bill? EPA? Forest Service? National Park Service? BLM? More often than not, it is a politician, private group, or business behind the scenes.

It is far too easy to get a law passed in our government system. Politicians have had laws worded and passed for arcane personal reasons. The southeast boot heel of Missouri was created when a local rancher lobbied congress to have his land in Missouri than Arkansas for some unknown reason. ONE man influenced the congress of his time!

How do we fight this? The pattern I have seen in any issue under the political sun is to say something common. A typical statement for us would be, "I am a rock hound and I am against this bill because it will forbid collecting on public lands".

This is identical to when local residents are against a proposed large-scale building project and say, "It will create more traffic" or "Property taxes will go up". Or it will "overload our schools". All correct, but the politicians hear these reasons by the dozen. They mean nothing anymore and politicians have answers to deflect these weak criticisms.

Can one mention the educational value and money brought in the local economy? You can say that an estimated X number of mineral collectors bring in \$xxx,xxx into the local tourism coffers every year. And by way of association with colleges and local schools and museums with an Earth Science curriculum do have an educational value.

But the politician is thinking only of certain questions. *How many of those people can*

vote for me in my district and my reelection? How much state/federal/tax/grant/foundation money will it bring in? How many jobs will it create?

We must construct prior to said meeting a simple, but concise case for our cause, with hard, provable facts and numbers. How much money is contributed in the local/regional/state economy and where? How many people and jobs in the specific district will benefit from collector's spending? How do any schools, colleges and natural history/science museums benefit, via dollars spent or other ways? Gather solid information about how amateurs have made great finds of fossils and minerals and donated them to educational facilities and museums.

Politicians cannot easily argue or dismiss such information, particularly if we ask the aid of the local tourism groups, Chambers of Commerce, local schools, colleges and museums if they have Earth Sciences to assemble facts for us or speak with us at any meetings.

If we can obtain the help and backing of local celebrities or well-respected professionals in the Earth Science because the other key is publicity. Many politicians hate the public spotlight. If we can get the TV camera and newspapers on our side, that is a major plus. As old fashioned it may seem, and as a very last resort, the picket line. TV Cameras love picket lines. Politicians do not. Just make sure you get all appropriate permits and follow local rules about same.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER make definitive statements, such as "I am a rock hound and I am against this bill because it will forbid collecting on public lands". Politicians are adept at refuting or dodging a definite statement and making you look wrong,. They are making YOU defend your position if you can.

The tool to use is the QUESTION. Politicians hate questions. If a speaker at our hypothetical meeting has planned carefully, he or she will ask a series of questions that will force the politician into a corner were he or she will have to give a real, definite answer or look stupid. Look-

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How to work the system

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ing stupid will not ensure re-election.

Start with general questions about the law or bill. Move onto fine details, such as specific wording, penalties, what can or cannot be done. Then start asking about who and how and what will benefit from said law or bill. Ask who the real backer(s) are? This can called a form of mental chess. One has to be adept and flexible at thinking and asking questions depending on the moment. YOU are making the politician defend HIS or HER position on a bill or law.

Is this more work? Yes. Will it help our hobby and us in the long run? Yes, but only if we keep hammering away at it like our hypothetical pocket. Our Founding Fathers designed our governmental system in such a way to avoid going with whatever will-of-the-wisp, popular issue of the moment is. They reasoned that if the people want changes, then the pressure will be constant over a period of time to cause a change.

Check out these web sites!!

By Dick Pankey

A few months ago I picked up a free copy of the Mining Journal at the Roseville Rock Roller's Show and although I am not a "gold hunter" per se, I did enjoy the articles and pictures. What really caught my eye was the Legislative and Regulatory Update column. Not too surprising, the gold prospectors and miners are having the same problems with the BLM, Forest Services, the State and other agencies as we rockhounds are having. They are fighting similar battles for access and against the anti-access organizations that we do. Check out their web site: www.icmj.com. The site is an online version of the magazine. It is easy to read and navigate. Some of the content requires a subscription but the Legislative and Regulatory Update column is free. Check out this site.

Another website that I recently discovered

and was greatly rewarded is www.rangemagazine.com. This site is the on-line version of the Range magazine. You don't have to "page" through the magazine on line to discover their best articles. On a navigation bar at the top of the page select and click on "Special Reports" to get a list of over 30 articles. I have started working my way through them and recommend that you read "[Our Federal Landlord](#)" and "[Where The Wild Lands Are.](#)"

If you come across good web sites let John Martin know about them so that he can post a link to them on the ALAA web site.

Did You Know?

Government roadblocks to recreational activities, such as fishing, hunting and shooting, on certain public lands inhibits economic and job growth. [H.R. 4089](#), the *Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012*, protects the rights of American sportsmen and removes bureaucratic restrictions and limitations to these time-honored recreational traditions.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr4089>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr4089eh/pdf/BILLS-112hr4089eh.pdf>

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc112/h4089_ih.xml

This could also have an affect on Rockhounding on Public Lands.

This bill has passed the House April 17, 2012! Now on to the Senate.

By John Martin

AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee
afms-conservation@antelecom.net

ACTION ALERT on CA Legislation April 16, 2012

These 4 Bills will go to the Committee for a vote on Tuesday , please call the Committee members to ask them to VOTE YES on these 4 Bills!

AB 1881: as introduced, Donnelly. Political Reform Act of 1974: campaign statements. The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires elected officers, candidates, and campaign committees to file periodic campaign statements that include prescribed information, including the name, address, occupation, and employer of each person who made a cumulative amount of contributions of \$100 or more to the campaign statement filer. Under the act, campaign statements are public records and are required to be open for public inspection.

This bill would prohibit a committee that is not controlled by a candidate from disclosing in a campaign statement the name and address of a person who has made a cumulative amount of contributions to that committee in an amount less than \$5,000. The bill would require, upon the request of the Fair Political Practices Commission, that the committee provide the withheld information to the Commission, but that information would not be a public record and would not be open for public inspection.

The bill would also make conforming changes.

Existing law makes a knowing or willful violation of the act a misdemeanor and subjects offenders to criminal penalties. By creating additional crimes, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Elections and Redistricting Committee

AB 2479: as introduced, Donnelly. Voter registration: proof of citizenship.

(1) Under the California Constitution, a United States citizen 18 years of age and resident in the state has the right to vote. Existing law establishes procedures regarding the registration of voters. A person may not be registered to vote except by affidavit of registration. A person is allowed to prove his or her citizenship by certification under penalty of perjury on the affidavit of registration.

This bill would instead require a person to prove citizenship by presenting, or submitting a copy of, the person's birth certificate, United States passport, United States naturalization documents, documents or methods of proof established pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, or Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number. By increasing the duties of local elections officials regarding the registration of voters, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

Elections and Redistricting Committee

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ACTION ALERT on CA Legislation April 16, 2012*(Continued from page 10)***AB 2306: as introduced, Donnelly. California Emergency Services Act: border security.**

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency, and local officials and local governments to declare a local emergency, when specified conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist.

Existing law authorizes the Governor, upon declaration of a state of emergency, to exercise broad powers, including, among others, to use and employ any of the property, services, and resources of the state to respond to the emergency, to suspend certain statutes or regulations, and to commandeer private property or personnel.

This bill would add border security to the list of those conditions that would constitute a state of emergency or local emergency for purposes of the California Emergency Services Act.

Elections and Redistricting Committee

AB 2546: AB 2546, as amended, Donnelly. Pupil instruction: social sciences: instructional materials.

- (1) Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to ensure that certain historical documents are incorporated, as appropriate, into the history-social science framework.

This bill would add the Magna Carta, the Articles of Confederation, and the California Constitution to the historical documents that are required to be incorporated into that framework and would require them to be incorporated based on the subject matter of the course.

- (2) Existing law requires instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to provide a foundation for understanding the history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America.

This bill would require instruction in the social sciences also to include the development of democracy and the history of the development of the United States Constitution. To the extent that this requirement would require additional instruction, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- (3) Existing law requires the governing board of a school district, when adopting instructional materials for use in the schools to require, when appropriate to the comprehension of pupils, that textbooks for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

This bill would delete the condition that these documents be included when appropriate to the comprehension of pupils and would require that a classroom in which history or the social sciences is taught have access to a copy of the California Constitution. By requiring certain classrooms to have access to a copy of the California Constitution, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- (4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state.

Elections and Redistricting Committee

National Recreation Groups Says Stop Taxpayer Funded Abuse Of Legal System By Green Litigants

House Committee on Natural Resources

POCATELLO, ID (June 19)--The BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), a national trail-based recreation group, today applauded the House Committee on Natural Resources for holding an oversight hearing on taxpayer funded eco-lawsuits. BRC sent in a letter of support to the Committee for its hearing on June 19, 2012.

BRC believes that Congress must address this issue where eco-lawsuits are being used to bypass the administrative and legislative process through litigation driven settlements where land and wildlife management decisions are crafted behind closed doors by courts and green litigants.

Greg Mumm, Executive Director for the BlueRibbon Coalition, states, "BRC has seen where settlements designed in 'smoke filled backrooms' by special interest advocacy groups are being used to expand trail closures beyond the original scope of the litigation. Sadly, the public is paying for this abuse of the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the Agencies cannot accurately quantify the total price tag."

"BRC respectfully requests that our concerns are made part of the official record, and we will be submitting more formal comments in the coming days," Mumm concludes.

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. With members in all 50 states, BRC is focused on building enthusiast involvement with organizational efforts through membership, outreach, education, and collaboration among recreationists.

1-800-BlueRib - www.sharetrails.org.

CALIFORNIA UPDATE!

Must Watch video of OHV Grant Hearing

On May 31, the California Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation voted to steal up to \$31 million dollars from the California Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund and transfer it to non-OHV related programs.

Watch the California Legislature take 30 million dollars from your OHV trust fund [HERE](http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=470).

(http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=470)

This video shows BRC and other OHV groups challenging the "plan" to pilfer user-pay funding as part of the "Sustainable Parks Proposal" being championed by the California Parks Foundation, other anti-OHV organizations, California State Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) and Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-Petaluma).

Use the scroll bar and navigate to 44:31 to watch comments made by California's OHV advocates Don Amador, Amy Granat, Jim Bramham, Dave Pickett, Nick Haris and Pete Conaty. Navigate to 56:31 to watch the committee's response.

DO NOT MISS Don Amador's comments!!

As we so often say, stay tuned... this won't be the last you hear about this issue.

Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 102
www.sharetrails.org.

Johnson Valley Collecting Sites

By John Martin

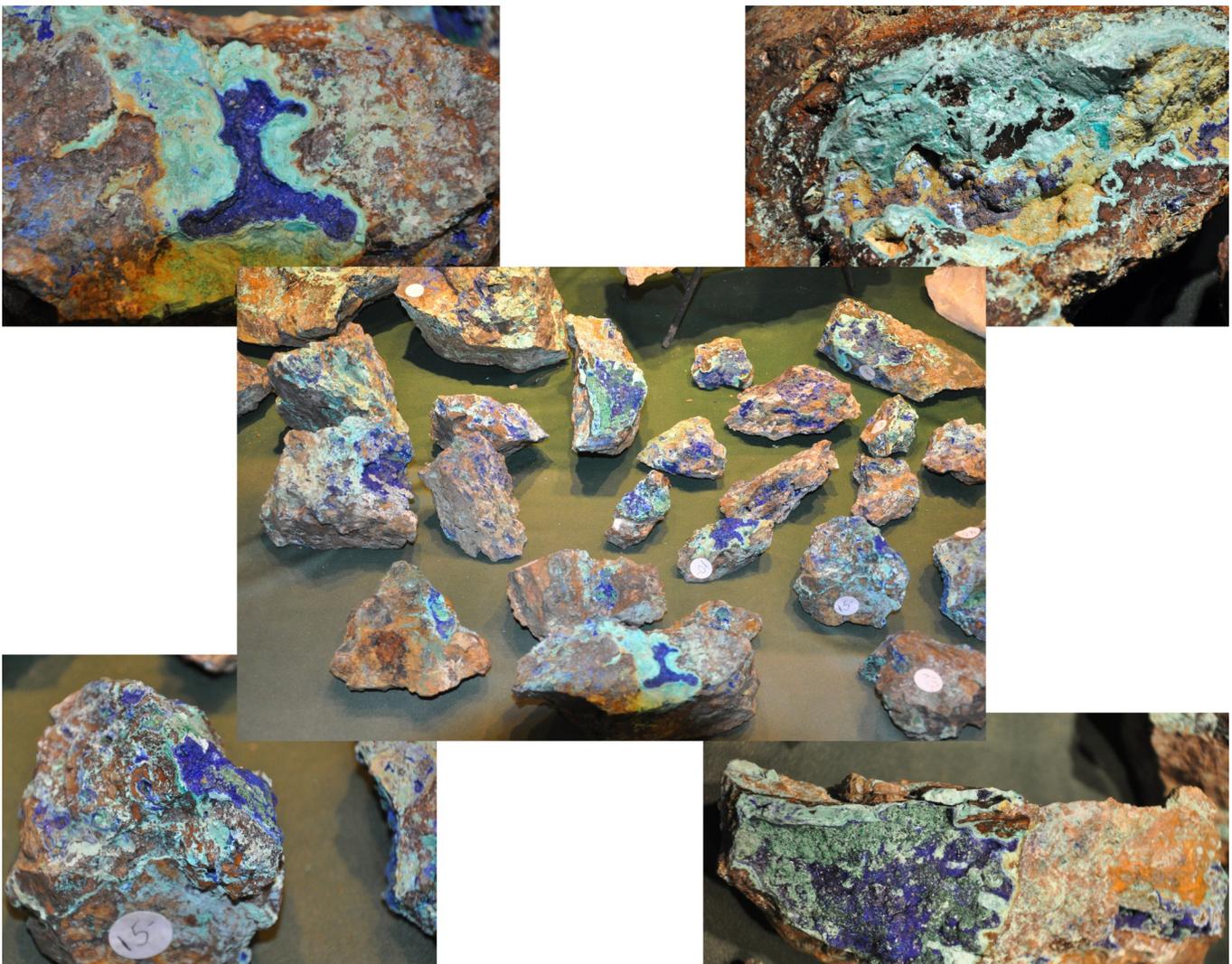
These were collected in the last week of April 2012 in Johnson Valley. They came from the tailing pile of one of the inactive mines in the area.

There are things for Rockhounds to Collect in Johnson Valley, so we must show the BLM and other agencies that we need to keep Johnson Valley Roads and our collecting areas open.

This is just one of several old mines in the area.

To view the pictures in glorious full color

The paper version of this newsletter is produced only in black & white. It may have really high resolution and look great with the text articles but you lose the vibrant colors of the email version (PDF). If you are not already receiving the email version, you can still read or download a copy from the ALAA Webpage at <http://www.amlands.org/>. EDITOR



William “Bill” Burns, Jr.
May 28, 1928 to May 13, 2012

Bill Burns died on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 13 at home. He got up as usual, went into the living room to watch the morning news and just went to sleep.

William Benson Burns, Jr. came into the world on May 28, 1922. His father was a career US Navy man stationed at Honolulu, Hawaii so that was where Bill was born. Being in the Navy meant that they had to move every 3-4 years to a new posting. Eventually Bill Burns, Sr. was stationed in Southern California and that is where the family stayed, finally settling in Monrovia, California.

Bill was 16 years old in 1944 and the 2nd World War was going on. Not wanting to miss it, though he was still in high school, he lied about his age and enlisted in the Navy for a 4-year stint. He served 2 years, reputedly visiting China and Japan on destroyers. At some point the Navy discovered he had lied about his age and sent him home. Returning to Monrovia, Arcadia Duarte (MAD) High School, he completed school and went on to get a business degree from USC (I remember the “friendly” rivalry between Bill and his UCLA friends and family (Tony) whenever the USC-UCLA football game was on. He was a die-hard fan). Entering the world of business, he was apparently a skilled salesman, working for local businesses including Bruce Hardwood Floors and a sheet metals products company.

During this period Bill also met and married his first wife, Sylvia. As luck would have it, they went to a Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Gem Show in 1951, joining the Club in November of that year. They had two daughters, Pat and Sandie, that they raised as rockhounds, going camping, collecting rocks (lucky girls) and having cool adventures. He remained active in the Whittier Club until the end, holding all the offices including President at least once. He was the

Show Chairman many, many times during the 50’s and 60’s and led uncounted field trips. Bill helped survey and established the Whittier Club’s Honey Onyx Claim near Barstow. When the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society was formed, Bill and Isabella (Izzy), his 2nd wife, joined and became a powerful force in that club too. Still later they helped to found the Monterey Park Gem Society. They were both active in the California Federation of Mineral Societies (CFMS), American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and American Lands Access Association (ALAA), holding many positions, including President, within those organizations. Bill and Izzy helped start the Earth Studies program at Zzyzx. They traveled the country visiting various shows, making friends along the way (and collecting rocks, too). Bill and Izzy were also active participants in many events important to rockhounds including the push to define the California State Gemstone (Benitoite). They were vocal advocates for rockhounds and for several years served on the Desert Advisory Council, helping to reopen Afton Canyon when the BLM closed it down, and were instrumental in keeping the Hauser Beds/Wiley’s Well areas open for collecting. Until his health began to work against him, he and Izzy continued to be active on numerous field trips every year.

The other love of his life was deep sea fishing. For many years, Bill and his younger brother, Jim, would spend 7 to 10 days fishing. They stopped their annual fishing trips when both started to have health problems.

Every club needs the “doers”, the shakers and movers. Bill was all of those things and much more. He enjoyed all aspects of our hobby without reservation and never lost his sense of wonder along the way.

Jay Valle

With a heartfelt *Thank You* to
 Tony & Sandie Fender for their help & input

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