

Livermore

Lithogram



**Volume XXXVII, Number 2
February 2012**

**Livermore Valley Lithophiles
Livermore, California**

Next General Meeting:
Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012
Livermore Library Community Room
7:30 PM

Program: Smithsonian Institution - Mission of Our National Museum - Dr. Jeffrey Post (More info on Pg. 9)
- - - Dues Are Due! - - -

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
7:30 at 'The Shop'
Members are welcome to attend!

Meeting Location: Livermore Library Community Room

Refreshments: Rich Hunt & Lee Davisson



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Presidents Message:

Happy Valentines Day Lithophiles! We're developing some exciting plans for 2012 and hope to see more of you as we roll out some interesting programs and engaging field trips. We have upcoming programs on fossils, geode formation, and obsidian collecting. Planned field trips include a trip to the vast Consolidated Rock in March or April and a geology field trip up Del Puerto Canyon in May. Check out the minutes of the January meeting elsewhere in the Lithogram to see all the ideas from our brainstorming session. Do you have anything to add?

Another idea from the brainstorming was to have earlier shop hours. The board has decided to try this on a trial basis, on the third Tuesday each month, starting at 3:00 pm. The first early session will be February 21, starting at 3:00 pm. Albert Hess will be Shop Foreperson for this early session. Remember that it's a trial, so we will discontinue it if it's not well attended.

We need your help to make the club excel – please see the Help Wanted page in this Lithogram to volunteer for some critical club assignments in the coming year. Some things are one-time events that would require just a little of your time; others may be more time-consuming but will be vastly rewarding. Any help you can give would be great!

The program for February, on new acquisitions to the Smithsonian collection, sounds quite interesting. I hope to see you at the general meeting on February 9th. Refreshments will be positively presidential, and vice-presidential too!

-Rich Hunt
rcjhunt@comcast.net 925-443-5525

Minutes of the General Meeting

January 12, 2012

Meeting comes to order at 7:32pm, Rich Hunt presiding.

Guest: Bill Williams in attendance

Minutes: No corrections to previous meeting minutes

Treasure report: Diane standing in for Shelley who is absent. Diane will get together with Shelley Monday night to transfer file cabinet and bring her up to speed on job. Shelley will need to get a key to post office box and needs to have bank account transferred to her name. Diane recommends Shelley attend upcoming tax clinic and plans to be there herself. Rich indicated that according to the by-laws an audit is required when there is a change in treasurer.

Meeting Procedures: Rich also indicated that the by-laws allow that all business can be conducted at the Board Meeting exclusively and the General Meeting for programs and socializing only. He stated that this is his preference. Any decisions made at Board Meetings can be discussed at the General Meeting and rescinded if necessary. Rich reminded that all members can attend and vote at Board Meetings.

Schools: Bill indicated that he is lecturing in 28 different school classes in January alone, including the 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade classes at St. Michael's school. He also indicated that we can have a spot at the Science Odyssey again this year. It will be on March 1st from 5:30pm-7pm at Junction Avenue School. The purpose would be to advertise the club and teach about rocks, minerals, and gems. He suggested handing out polished stones. Lee volunteered to run the booth this year.

Bill was asked if the club wants to do a display and booth at the fair grounds for celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts. It will be May 5th from 10am-7pm. Need to let them know by January 31st what activities, displays, etc. we would set up.

Lithogram: once again articles for the Lithogram are needed.

Shop Report: Dick absent. Stephanie (not present) had indicated that she can be available most Tuesdays as shop Foreman. Albert asked whether shop can be opened for extended hours, for example, 3pm-7pm, where he could foreman, and then 7pm-10pm with the regular foreman. He thought it might get more use. He asked whether there would be insurance or rental agreement issues preventing this.

Old business: Officer form needs to be filled out and submitted to the Federation.

Bob Trimmingham would like to plan a field trip to Consolidated Rocks in Vacaville (big warehouse of rocks and minerals). He suggested that we couple purchases for Las Positas College with trip. He wanted the trip in January, but Rich indicated that wouldn't work because we need to advertise in Lithogram first. He suggested February for the trip instead. After some discussion, it was decided to separate the Las Positas purchase from the field trip and plan two separate visits to Consolidated Rocks. Bob and Bill will get together to coordinate the trip for purchasing.

Albert also suggested a source to purchase polished stone and fossils for giveaways at events. Bill suggested that we price it out and also see what Dick will bring back from his trip.

New Business: None

Break for raffle and refreshments.

President's Discussion:

Rich lead discussion on questions he raised in his President's message in January Lithogram:

- Why did you join the club, or what do you get out of being a member?
- What would encourage you want to come to the meetings more often?
- Any ideas for programs at the meetings? What topics would interest you?
- How about the shop – do you use it? What would make you use it more?
- Are you interested in field trips? What kind (e.g., collecting, education...)?
- Are you interested in classes? What kind (e.g., lapidary, jewelry, metalworking...)?
- What does the club do that you enjoy?

Members in attendance stated that they joined and participate for the good programs, refreshments and socializing, lapidary, and field trips.

Albert suggested getting Rick Kennedy back to talk on benitoite or other topics. Bob Trimmingham says he has his number and can contact. He suggested that it may be nice to buy some of his specimens.

Low use of the shop was discussed and ways to get more use suggested, including making at least one use per year a member requirement. Nothing was resolved on this topic.

It was generally acknowledged that field trips are difficult to coordinate with everyone's schedules and usually results in low participation. Bob Trimmingham suggested a geology field trip and not just a mineral collecting event.

Bill suggested that for program ideas that he can see what other clubs have and try to invite to do same for us. He will make a list.

It was suggested that an update on sponsored student research could be another program. Bill said he can contact supervising professor at Hayward State. He also suggested Carol Wilson might give a talk.

Lee suggested that to pull kids into the club activities that we tap the skills of the members to run a lapidary training class at some repeated frequency and teach them basic rock cutting and polishing skills. Shop equipment use can be geared towards middle and high school ages. Bill suggested younger kids could be taught soap stone cutting and polishing. A bead-making class for younger kids was suggested as well. All these could pull in some parents too. Bill said Terry McMillen at Motherload Mineral Society does something similar.

Albert asked if there is a location to view Tri-Valley fossils that we could visit for a field trip. Bill to look into this.

It was suggested that fossil collection for kids would be a good activity. If no appropriate field locations are available, rocks with fossils could be used to teach them fossil extraction and cleaning techniques.

Albert asked about expanding the shop space at the barn, but Bill said it's next to impossible to negotiate with

LARPD on this given that others already would like some of our space.

It was suggested that we also conduct adult classes, such as lapidary, beading, slate carving.

It was suggested that a monthly competition be held on best product made in the shop that month. High shop use would be required, but incentive of a prize may encourage more members to use it.

It was pointed out that at Science Odyssey all the stages of a lapidary project could be displayed to show that rocks found in the backyard can be turned into beautiful pieces.

Rich suggested that someone from the club visit a parent in 4-H that runs a digger on road cuts and has been collecting interesting finds at home. Club member could catalogue what he has and inform him of what he could do to turn some into projects/displays.

Bill suggested that some Livermore ranches have petrified wood finds and that they would be worth cutting and polishing.

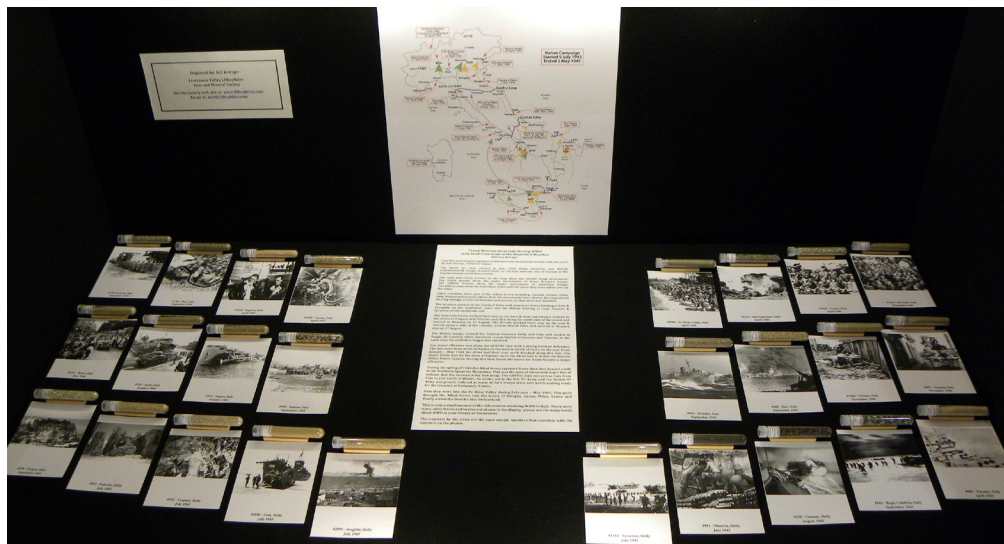
Meeting adjourned: at 8:56pm. Secretary absent, Lee Davisson recording minutes

‘A Bell for Adano’

Special exhibit on the Pulitzer Prize book ‘A Bell for Adano’ by John Hersey is at the Livermore Library on Livermore Ave.

The below photo is of a sand exhibit that ties in with the book showing the beaches and the troop movements during WWII in Sicily and Italy. The exhibits will be there during most of February. The display has information for the Lithophiles web site and email address.

Bill Beiriger



Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Barn at 7:30 PM by President Rich Hunt.

Those also in attendance included Bill Beiriger, Bob Trimmingham, and Lee Davisson and his daughter Sarah.

Treasure's Report:- Bill Beiriger gave a brief update on the efforts of Dianne Day and Shelley Buchberger regarding getting our accounts into Quicken format on Shelley's computer. The account balance is essentially the same as in December as there have been no deposits or checks written since then. Our taxes are to be filed on-line and an audit by Beth Meyers is needed.

Girl Scouts:- The Club will participate at the 100-year anniversary of the Girl Scouts to be held at the Alameda County fairgrounds on May 5, 10am to 5pm. Bill Beiriger plans to have a display and we may demonstrate carving and possibly cabochon cutting.

Livermore Schools Science Fair:- We will participate in this science fair to be held on March 1. We may have a display, a rock pebble grab, and show projections of petrographic thin sections. Lee Davisson will assist.

Joe Mitchell School Science Room Fund Raiser:- A "Gala" fundraiser will be held at Ruby Hill Golf Club on March 17 to raise funds for their science room. We plan to donate items for the fundraiser such as carvings and tumbling rough.

Castro Valley Science Fair:- Bill Beiriger will coordinate Club efforts for this science fair as he did last year. He may have a dinosaur display as well as a sand display. More details to follow.

Shop Report:- The group discussed the concept of having extended shop hours. The extended shop hours would be from 3pm to 5pm plus the regular 7pm to 10pm. We will have a trial period of once a month for the extended hours. The other Tuesdays will remain the same.

Program:- The February program will consist of a showing of a new Mineralogical Record CD on "New Acquisitions at the Smithsonian."

Future Programs:- Several possibilities for future programs were discussed. These included possible talks by Rick Kennedy (benitoite); Carol Wilson; Debbie Bunn ((fossil locations in California and Nevada); Tim Rose (LLNL); Dick Pankey (obsidian); and, John Stockwell (Oregon thunder eggs). Bill Beiriger will contact Tim Rose and Bob Trimmingham will contact John Stockwell.

Los Positas and Livermore Schools Acquisitions:- Bob Trimmingham and Bill Beiriger reported on their purchases at Consolidated Rocks, located east of Vacaville, for the schools. Specimens shown to the group included a large piece of alabaster, a very fine cabinet specimen of pyrite with sphalerite and tiny quartz crystals, Chinese garnets, hematite, a stibnite crystal, a kyanite crystal, a stibnite crystal group, and a lodestone specimen. Bob spent approximately \$479 and Bill approximately \$128 for the mineral specimens. The Club will reimburse them as decided by a motion by Lee Davisson with a second by Larry Patzkowski. The funds will come from the Mike Gorges account.

Field Trips:- Possible field trips to the Consolidate Rock facility near Vacaville and a field trip along Del Puerto Road and or the Livermore hills were discussed.

New Business: The Club will probably purchase Brunton compasses for a recommended Cal State University East Bay (CSUEB) geology student(s) this year. More details on this, our regular practice, will follow.

Refreshments: Lee Davisson and Rich Hunt will provide refreshments for the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Larry Patzkowski, Secretary
Larry Patzkowski, Secretary

School Science Program

Bill Beiriger

School Classrooms

Presentations to the second and fourth grade classes in the schools is off to a great season.

This year I started with 4th grade students at Sunset School just before the winter break for Christmas and New Years.

If any of the Lithophiles wanted to get in touch with me during January they would have had to look for me at the schools. By the time this January Lithogram was published I will have given presentations to 30 classes since the winter break, including a 4th grade class at St. Michaels' School.

I only have five classes scheduled for February. Then I will be getting ready to do a couple of things that Joan and I have to do the middle of February and then the rest of the schools will start again after February 23.

Science Odyssey Science Fair

The Livermore Schools Science Odyssey will be March 1st at Junction School and will be from 4 to 7 PM. This year Lee Davisson will be the Chairman, if you can help please contact him at 371-0699.

This is a fun way for members of the society to get involved with one of our out-reach programs. So please call Lee and volunteer.

100 Birthday Party for the Girl Scouts

The society has be asked to have a booth at the Alameda County Fair Grounds for the 100 birthday of the Girl Scouts. We are planing on some type of a display the have members show how we make Cabochons, Free-form carving and maybe Slate and Soapstone carving.

The event will be May 5, 2012 from 10:00 to 7:00. This will be a long day if only a couple of members work the booth, **SO PLEASE LEND A HELPING HAND.**

This can be a good way to get a few new members and it should be fun for all who help.

Contact Bill Beiriger 443-5769.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
LIVERMORE VALLEY LITHOPHILES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
ARE NOW DUE!**

Notes From The Natural History World

North America's Biggest Dinosaur Found in New Mexico

The researchers Denver Fowler from Montana State University, and Robert M. Sullivan from State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

A dinosaur belonging to the sauropods that were related to the *Diplodocus* were found in New Mexico. It is known as *Alamosaurus sanjuanensis*. The sauropods include, the long-necked, dinosaurs like *Apatosaurus*.

It lived about 69 million years ago and was described to be as large as the *Titanosaurs* sauropods discovered in South America which included *Argentinosaurus* and *Puertasaurus* which weights up to 80 - 100 metric tons.

Dinosaur Footprints Discovered in Arkansas

Researchers discovered a field of 120 million-year-old footprints in southwestern Arkansas.

Included were three-toed dinosaur tracks, measuring 24 inches long by 12 inches wide.

Researchers, at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, believe the three-toed print may belong to *Acrocantiosaurus atokensis* a large predator.

The site also contains the giant prints of sauropods -- large, long-necked, plant-eating dinosaurs such as *Pleurocoelus* and *Paluxysaurus*.

Mango Information

Wikipedia - The Free Encyclopedia

Mango peel and sap contains urushiol, the chemical in poison ivy and poison sumac that can cause urushiol-induced contact dermatitis in susceptible people.

Cross-reactions between mango contact allergens and urushiol have been observed.

Those with a history of poison ivy or poison oak contact dermatitis may be most at risk for such an allergic reaction.

Urushiol is also present in mango leaves and stems. During mango's primary ripening season, it is the most common source of plant dermatitis in Hawaii.

The Cascade Volcanoes of California, Oregon and Washington.

Compiled by Bill Beiriger

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



Mono Craters - California
Last Eruption - 1350 +/- 20 years
9173 feet
37.88° N 119.00° W

The Mono Craters, lying on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada between Mono Lake and Long Valley caldera, form an arcuate, 17-km-long group of 30 or more dominantly rhyolitic lava domes, lava flows, and tephra rings. The partially overlapping dike-fed domes were erupted near the margin of a pull-apart basin on the east side of the Sierra Nevada. Explosive eruptions began more than 50,000 years ago from now-buried vents, but almost all of the exposed domes and flows are of Holocene age. Activity has propagated both north and south from the center of the chain during the late Holocene. The latest eruptions occurred about 600 years ago, nearly contemporaneously with the eruptions from Inyo Craters to the south, producing a series of tephra rings and obsidian lava domes and flows at the northern end of the chain accompanied by eruption of locally extensive tephra layers.

Photo by R. Von Huene, 1971 (U.S. Geological Survey).

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

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
LIVERMORE VALLEY LITHOPHILES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
ARE NOW DUE!**

February Program

Our February program is from a DVD that was part of a meeting in Dallas, Texas. It is part of the Mineral Collecting Symposium that was held there in 2011.

Dr. Jeffrey Post is Curator of the U. S. National Gem and Mineral Collection in the Smithsonian.

Dr. Post will tell about what the Smithsonian Institution is and how it helps with studies in the science of gems and minerals. The first part talks about the analytical capabilities and will show some of the most up to date equipment that is available in the industry and how each piece of equipment is used.

He will then take you into some of the display halls and see some of the gems and minerals. You will also see some of the damage that happened during the August 23, 2011 5.8 earthquake that hit the Washington D.C. area.

Then he will go behind the scene and into the areas not on view to the general public and what the areas are used for.

Last we will learn about some of the donated gems, jewelry and minerals and learn about the people who made the donations. We will also learn how a fire in 1865 destroyed a major collection at the institution.

This is a interesting program and it is 51 minutes long. Rich is conducting most of the business at the Board Meetings, so most of the night will be the Program. **PLEASE ATTEND**

Field Trips

Make the Quartsite Shows your field trip for the beginning of the 2012 year. This show has a lot to see and buy.

Then you can continue on to see the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson, Arizona where you can enjoy the 4500 vendors. See the Tucson website for all the information, <http://tucsongemandmineralshows.net/2012-tucson-gem-show.htm>

April 5-8 Topaz Mt. & Dugway Geode Beds, Delta, UT for topaz, red beryl, hematite crystals and geodes. CFMS Field Trips North, Jim Barton.

June 13-16 Tri-Federation to Vale area, OR for petrified wood, plume agates, jaspers. AFMS/CFMS/NFMS, Doug True, dtruefossils@yahoo.com.

Livermore Lithophiles – Help Wanted

The Lithophiles need a variety of volunteer helpers to assure that the club can provide the programs, field trips, and services that we members expect. I've listed below all the jobs, small and large, that the club needs someone to step up and handle. Critical needs are Lithorama chairperson and additional Shop Forepersons so we can be sure to have the shop open every week. Check out the list below, choose the job that resonates with you, and let me know how you will help your club.

-Rich Hunt
rcjhunt@comcast.net
925-443-5525

Alameda Co. Fair Exhibit Chair

Christmas Party Chair

Coffee for Meetings – Albert Hess

Door prizes/Raffles – Jane Crone

Education Chair – Bill Beiriger

Federation Director

Field Trip Chair

Historian/ Scrapbook

Librarian

Lithogram Editor – Bill Beiriger

Lithorama Chair

Lithorama Exhibitors/Dealers

Lithorama Food Booth

Lithorama Publicity

Lithorama Set-up Dinner

Livermore Science Odyssey – Lee Davisson

Meeting/Program Publicity

North Bay Field Trip Rep

Program Chair

San Leandro Library Event Chair

Picnic Chair

Sunshine

Shop Foreperson(s) – Stephanie Goldsmith, Chris Hunt, Albert Hess

California Shows And Events

2012

Quartzite

Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 **Desert Gardens**

Nov. 1 - Feb. 28 **Gold Show (Prospectors Panorama)**

Jan. 6 - Jan. 15 **Tyson Wells Rock & Gem**

Jan 7 - Jan. 22 **Main Event**

Jan. 18 - Jan. 22 **Annual PowWow**

Feb. 3 - Feb. 12 **Tyson Wells Arts & Crafts Show**

Tucson

See all 4500 vendors at the shows in Tucson, Arizona.

See the info for Tucson Shows under Field Trips listed below.

March 2-4, 2012: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley

Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Avenue

Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007

Email: info@mgscv.org, Website: www.mgscv.org

March 10-11, 2012: SALINAS (Spreckels), CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club

Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA, 5th & Llano St.

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Robert L. Braun, (831) 771-2089

March 10-11, 2012: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 North Broadway

Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Terry & Bud McMillin, (209) 524-3494

Email: bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com

Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 17-18: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 644-9764

Email: VGMS01@yahoo.com

Website: www.vallejogemandmineral.com

March 24-25, 2012: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA)

101 Frogtown Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Tak Iwata, (209) 928-5579

Email: Tak2me@msn.com

Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 24-25, 2012: ROSEVILLE, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers

Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds

800 All American City Blvd. (off Washington)

Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114

Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com

Website: www.rockrollers.com

November 17 & 18, 2012 Livermore LITHORAMA 2012 Show and Sale, **Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Society**; The 'BARN' 3131 Pacific Ave. east of Livermore Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Visit us at our website www.lithophiles.org

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

Additional Resources:

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

American Lands Access Association website: www.amerlands.org

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

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies web page www.cfmsinc.org gives everyone access to the CFMS Newsletter.

A Celebration of Agates

The Minnesota Mineral Club is hosting a four-day agate show, in conjunction with the

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

Minnetonka, Minnesota

July 26 to 29, 2012

Livermore Valley Lithophiles

Bill Beiriger, Editor
P.O. Box 626
Livermore, CA 94551-0626
info@lithophiles.com

We're on the Web at www.lithophiles.org

Dues Are Due!



Elected Officers and Club Information

Elected Officers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shop open every Tuesday at 7:00 PM

General Meeting Feb. 9th, at 7:30 PM
Board Meeting Feb. 23rd, 7:30 PM -The Shop