

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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## May Dinner Meeting

### Interesting Tidbits about Red and White Wines

#### Abstract

At the May Dinner Meeting there will be discussions on the handling of grapes, the fermented must, the resultant wine, and the affect on the sensory characteristic of the bottled product. Discussion points will be illustrated by tasting various wines. Topics that will be discussed are:

**“Wine History and Aging Strategy”**

**“Relation of Acids to Flavor in Chardonnay Wine”**

**“Understanding Red Made California Zinfandel & Pinot Noir”**

Presentations will be made by winemaker and co-owner Bob

Roudon of Roudon-Smith Winery and by winemaker and co-owner Phil Crews of Pelican Ranch Winery.

#### Biographies

#### ROUDON-SMITH WINERY

Founded in 1972 by Bob and Annamaria Roudon and Jim and June Smith, the winery is dedicated to the production of exceptional wines from the vineyards of our region, especially the estate-grown Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay grapes. The winery also purchases grapes from other vineyards, most notably the Meeker Vineyard in Paso Robles. Also produced at the winery are the

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## May Dinner Meeting

**Date:** May 23, 2002

**Time:** 6:30 pm Social Time  
7:00 pm Lecture and Tasting

**Location:** The Sundeck Restaurant  
3000 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA  
650-854-2119

**Speakers:** Bob Roudon  
Phil Crews  
Roudon-Smith and Pelican  
Ranch Wineries

**Cost:** \$25.00 includes lecture,  
several wines and light  
buffet/hor d'oeuvres

**Reservations:** Shirley Radding  
408-246-2564  
408-296-8625 Fax  
[www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org)

Reservations should be made by May 19th; stating your name, company affiliation, number of people in the party.

The Sundeck Restaurant is nestled under the clock tower in the 3000 Sand Hill Road corporate office complex - the “in” venture capital address. It is a room with a view! The backdrop of the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills is dramatic and the deck is the perfect spot for tasting excellent wines from that region. The restaurant is open especially for us that evening.

#### Chair's Message

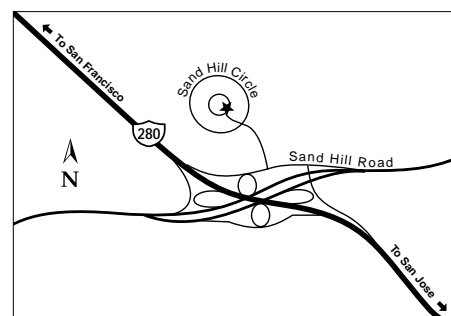
### “The Best Kept Secret in the Bay Area”

I recently had a conversation with John Flygare, a chemist at Genentech. I was surprised to learn that the economic downturn, which has negatively affected employment in the most visible Bay Area business sector of computer and software development, has not adversely affected the biotech industry. John pointed out that the biotech industry is actually expanding. He told me that Genentech alone is building a new research building that will house 600 new

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## Reminder: April Dinner Meeting

The April Dinner Meeting featuring Dr. Michelle Marvier of Santa Clara University, will be held on Thursday, **April 18th**. The meeting will be held at Santa Clara University, in both the Arts and Sciences Building Foyer (reception and dinner) and the Daly Science Center (lecture). For \$25.00, you get a chance to savor the Italian buffet dinner and listen to a wonderful lecture on Dr. Marvier's research interest in genetically modified crops. Please register using the Local Section website [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org).



*Interesting Tidbits, continued from front page*

Pelican Ranch wines of winemakers Phil and Peggy Crews.

### **BOB ROUDON**

Bob Roudon earned a Fine Arts degree in music in 1960 and had his first introduction to California wines while at the University of New Mexico. Then, Bob discovered French wines during a long European stay and thereafter centered his attention on French wines and French wine-making techniques.

After a brief stint at teaching, Bob switched his attention to engineering and moved to Los Angeles. He began to study California wines in earnest and began making wines at home in Los Angeles.

In 1971, Bob moved to the Santa Clara Valley and was hired by his now partner Jim Smith to work on the startup of Amdahl Corporation. The two teamed up, bought a parcel of land in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and founded the present vineyard and winery. The first vintage was produced in 1972. The magic year was 1978 when both partners became full time in the wine business. Bob attributes his individual winemaking style to his early exposure to German and French wines, and his wines have produced numerous awards. The quest for great wine continues.

### **PHIL CREWS**

Professor Crews obtained his BS in Chemistry in 1966 from the University of California, Los Angeles; his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1969 from the University of California, Santa Barbara; and was a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow from 1969 to 1970 at Princeton University. Phil was

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*Chair's Message, continued from front page*

jobs including 100 for chemists. Other biotech companies like Chiron are also expanding their research space. Shortly after our conversation, John sent me an article from *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

The article, by Julie Lymen, appeared in the *Industry Outlook* section on March 3rd. Lymen provides some interesting numbers. In a recent survey, she found that "more than half of Bay Area bioscience companies said they plan to add ninety-five or more employees to their company in the next few years. Seventy-five percent of those companies plan to expand R&D and seventy percent expect to expand manufacturing." Lymen notes that the companies that are moving from R&D to production are fueling this job boom. In fact, her article focuses on the laboratory biotechnician positions that are required in manufacturing. Nevertheless, you can see from her numbers as well as John's that there are, and will be, many positions for chemists of all levels: Doctorate, Masters, and Bachelors.

With so many job openings, my thoughts came back to this newsletter and its job section, ChemPloyment. I

an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 1970 to 1977 to become a Professor of Chemistry in 1986, where he continues to pursue his research interest in organic-marine natural products chemistry.

While pursuing his interest in marine chemistry, Phil became interested in winemaking and started to make various wines as a home wine-maker. He was successful and increased the complexity of the wines; using oak barrels for fermentation as well as aging and allowing the wine to be in contact with the fermentation lees for various periods of time. His winemaking skills expanded and outgrew his home facilities. In 1996, he moved to the Roudon Smith Winery and started producing the Pelican Ranch brand wine under the

asked John about it. He said that ChemPloyment has produced better results than the local papers. Although the newsletter reaches fewer people, it reaches the right people: ACS members. That's real good to hear.

ChemPloyment is doing a good job serving both our members and local industry, and we've just improved it. Our web committee, Ean Warren and Karl Marhenke, has developed a web page so that companies can submit ChemPloyment job advertisements online - no longer will they have to be phoned or mailed in. This way, ads can be directly entered with the correct specifications. The website will make the whole process easier and will facilitate our getting the information to you in a timely manner. The page is now up and running [www.scvacs.org/chemploy/](http://www.scvacs.org/chemploy/).

By the way, my titled quotation is drawn from the *Chronicle* article. The words belong to Kate Levine, Contra Costa College's Biotech Program Coordinator, and they refer to this great, new local biotech job market. It was news to me - but no longer. And now, in case it's news to you too, I pass it along with pleasure.

**Jon Touster**

Roudon-Smith Winery Bond. The first release of Pelican Ranch wines was the spring of 1997. The current production consists of ultra premium Burgundy and Rhône style wines including the varieties of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah (Hermitage), and Zinfandel.

### ❖ ❖ ❖ **Editor's Corner**

I'm always happy to see the newsletter come together from month to month. Some months I have to trim articles down while other months I struggle to get enough copy! The best aspect is to receive submissions from members who don't regularly submit! It is only on occasion that I receive such submissions, but they are always appreciated and encouraged. Thanks for your readership!

# Patent Truths

The word "patent" has at least 7 different dictionary definitions. One is open or obvious.

Are the following patently obvious? I don't think so.

1. Clara Barton was the first woman U.S. patent examiner hired around 1850. She was at the Civil War battle of First Bull Run in 1861 (First Manassas for those from the South). She helped convert the U.S. Patent Office building into an Army Hospital for the wounded. Later, she was the first woman to head a federal bureau of missing Civil War soldiers. In 1881, she founded and was the president of the American Red Cross.
2. Dr. George Washington Carver, the famous African-American agricultural (peanut) chemist, held three U.S. patents 1,522,716; 1,541,478; and 1,632,365; he did not commercialize any of them.
3. In 1790, patent No. 1 (under the old registration system) was issued to a chemical process to extract potash from wood ashes. The identity of the true inventor Samuel Hopkins was in dispute for years.
4. The present U.S. patent numbers date back to 1836. Since the old Blodgett Hotel that housed the U.S. Patent Office burned down, Congress voted to scrap the old system and to adopt the present examination process - similar to those patent systems found in Europe.
5. Bill Gates' great-grandfather, J. W. Maxwell, founded Seattle's National City Bank in 1906. His grandfather, also a banker, set up a million dollar trust fund for young Bill. We all need a grand-parents like that.
6. Ever wonder how Charles Darwin had the free time to travel on the good ship Beagle to the Galapagos Islands and then later wrote *The Origin of the Species*? He was the

"gentleman" on board so that the captain would have a dinner companion. His grandfather was Josiah Wedgewood, the one-legged founder of the English china company and Potter to the Queen of England.

7. Santa Clara County is home to the oldest public California college - San Jose State University, the oldest private California college - Santa Clara University, and that well-known colossus to the North - Stanford University.
8. Author Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was keenly interested in science and technology; he held several U.S. patents. His book, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, was the first manuscript in the US submitted in typed form. He invested heavily in a new printing process in the 1880s and went bankrupt when a new, more efficient printing technology emerged.
9. Alexander Graham Bell's patent application in 1876 for the telephone, 174,465, was issued as a patent in three weeks (23 days). His father-in-law to be was Gardner Hubbard, the senior senator from Massachusetts. I wonder if there was any connection??
10. The Santa Clara Valley Local Section is to be congratulated for its interest and action regarding women chemists. Only a few ACS awards are named to honor and recognize women chemists. Our Local Section has two: the Harry and Carol Mosher Award (over 20 years old) and the Shirley B. Radding Award. The Helen Free Award for Public Outreach is a recent established National award. And the Southern California Local Section has the Sister Agnes Ann Green Award. Do you know of any others? Is it time for a new look at this situation?

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# Calling All Runners

*or anyone in search of a good time with a little exercise thrown in*

The local section Younger Chemist Committee is once again organizing a group of participants in this year's San Francisco Bay to Breakers [www.baytobreakers.com](http://www.baytobreakers.com) on May 19. For those of you who are not familiar with this event, the Bay to Breakers is a 7.5 mile event from downtown San Francisco through Golden Gate Park to the Great Highway in which people enter for different reasons: some enter to race, some to walk, some to see others, and some to be seen. Many people dress in costume for the event. All this creates a kind of carnival atmosphere in which everyone has a good time. As a bonus, the local section will contribute \$25 per participating member, up to \$250 to fund local kindergarten through high school science teachers' programs. We may be able to get our companies to sponsor us also. So participate, get some exercise, meet other chemists, and contribute to a good cause. Contact Ean Warren at [ewarren@scvacs.org](mailto:ewarren@scvacs.org) or 650-329-4554. We should have an organizational meeting in mid-April to talk about how we want to participate as a group. Even though the YCC is organizing this event, you do not need to be a younger chemist to participate.



## Annual Report for 2001

Curious about our local section's annual report for 2001? The web version of the 2001 Annual Report is now available online on our website: [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org); click on "Annual Report for 2001".



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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
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#### APRIL 2002 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

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Patent Truths  
Call for Runners  
Annual Report for 2001

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS



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## FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Apr 1</b>	Chemistry Olympiad Local Section Test
<b>Apr 7-12</b>	National Meeting Orlando, FL
<b>Apr 16</b>	Executive Committee Meeting
<b>Apr 20</b>	Chemistry Olympiad National Test Los Positas College Livermore, CA
<b>Apr 25</b>	SCV Dinner Meeting <i>Dr. Michelle Marvier</i>
<b>May 23</b>	SCV Dinner Meeting <i>Bob Roudon and Phil Crews</i>
<b>Jun 10-14</b>	37th National Organic Symposium Montana State University
<b>Jun 29</b>	Annual Picnic and Awards Ceremony Stanford University

For the latest information, please visit  
SCV/ACS web site: [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org)



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