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Next General Meeting of the CCM&GS is: Friday October 13th 2006 at 7:30 PM. Please mark your calendars.

It's that time of year for our annual auction. Every year we hold an auction during our October general meeting. We ask that you bring in items to donate for the auction, the items do not need to be "rock' or "lapidary" related. The proceeds of the auction are donated to the Dietrich Educational Scholarship Fund which is administered by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS).

You don't want to miss this meeting. We always have a great time. Guaranteed there

will be wonderful things to bid on, and the proceeds go to a very worthwhile cause.

See you there.

October Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday October 9th at 7:30 at Dave & Kim Kleesattel's house.

Refreshments

Sam & Hazel Woosey
Mark Worley
Catalina Wright
John Wright
Joe Yarbrough
Glenn Young
Lenore Young
Joe & Bonnie Zehrung

We ask the following members to please bring a treat to share during our social period at the August General Meeting.

CCM&GS September Board of Directors Meeting

No meeting was held in September.

Dave Kleesattel, President

Annual Club Picnic!

The Annual Club Picnic is next Sunday, October 8th. It will be held at Baldwin Park in Concord near the Senior Center. Enter on Bonafacio Street off of Port Chicago Hwy. Time: 12 noon to 4:00. Potluck style, so bring your favorite dish and please bring your own plates and silverware. If possible bring a small gift item for a bingo prize.

Sharon Neuhauser, Hospitality

Vote For 2007 Officers

The nominating committee (Hazel Woolsey, Joanne Caskey, and Sharon Neuhauser) for this year has submitted the following candidates for the CCM&GS officers for 2007:

President ... Mary Hicks

1st Vice President ... Harry Nichandros

2nd Vice President ... Dennis Freiburger

Treasurer ... Connie Klein

Secretary ... David Kleesattel

Federation Director ... Dick Pankey

We are still accepting nominations for these positions. So if there is anybody who wants to be considered for one of these offices, please contact the nominating committee before the next general meeting on Friday October 13. During that meeting, we will close the nominations and vote for the 2007 officers. This is very important for the club, so please be there to cast your vote.

Dave Kleesattel, President

President's Message

It's getting to be that busy time of year again for the club, meaning - our annual show is just around the corner and we all need to pitch in to help. Sam Woolsey did a great job at the last meeting explaining how the club really depends on the success of our annual show. The club sponsors many fun and educational activities throughout the year and most of this is funded by the proceeds of our annual show. For example, the \$10 per year membership dues don't even cover the cost of our monthly newsletter. With copying and postage, it costs about \$15 per person per year for the newsletter; it costs the club about \$7 per person per year for insurance from the CFMS; and it costs about \$9 per person per year for the meeting hall. And these are just some of our costs. So you can see, in order to keep our annual dues low, we need other sources of income...and the annual show is it. So do what you can to help out, don't leave it to a small group of members to do all of the work...we all benefit from having a successful show...plus it's a really good time!

I also have one personal plea this month. At the September meeting I brought in two cabochons for competition/display. At the end of the meeting, the cabochons were missing. One was an oval cab made of Graveyard Point Agate and one was a round cab made of Chinese Writing Rock (black with white crystals). I'm assuming that these may have been mistaken for some of the free material that was on the table. I would appreciate getting these cabs back.

The October meeting is our annual club auction. Please come to the meeting and have fun bidding on all the great items I know will be there. This is definitely a

"DON'T MISS" meeting. Hope to see you all there.

Dave Kleesattel, President

CCM&GS General Meeting September 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President **Dave Kleesattel** and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser introduced guests, announced one anniversary and numerous birthdays. The Club picnic will be October 8th from 12 noon to 4PM at Baldwin Park in Concord. The Picnic is a potluck lunch. Please bring a small gift for Bingo prizes.

The door prize for guests was won by C. Lowery.

<u>Display Chair</u> **John Owen** was not present, so Dave Kleesattel announced the items brought for "Show and tell".

<u>Historian</u> Hazel Woolsey had sign up sheet for our Annual Show in November. Don't be shy! We need all the help we can get to make our beautiful show a success.

Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel was absent. There were no new members this month.

<u>Federation Chair</u> **Dick Pankey** talked of his 9,000 mile trip including the American Federation Show, seeing friends & relatives, and rock collecting.

Show Chair Sam Woolsey received a message from Bill McKay, who is now married (with children) and has a new job in the Chicago area. We do miss him, his funny character, & his great help in our club. Sam says we're getting ready for the Annual November Show but needs everybody's help! Also, Sam graciously thanked his wife Hazel for always being there for him. The next (and last) Show meeting is October 11 (Wednesday) at Matt & Ann Matthew's house.

Field Trip Chair and 1st Vice President

Dennis Freiburger had to cancel his Sri

Lanka trip and was able to be at the meeting.

Dennis discussed the many field trips
available for our rock club members (please
see the field trip schedule in this
newsletter). The Berkeley rock trip is very
close for new members who want to have a
fun day and not travel too far from home.
See the newsletter for trips and other show
dates. Don't forget Don Tompkins bulletin
board if you need to advertise rock
equipment o most other news.

Education and Arts & Crafts Chair Joanne
Caskey announced Camp Paradise for those interested. It is a week of teaching from the experts. There are new classes and a field trip on October 7th to the mines in Sommersville. Contact Joanne if you're going.

Don't forget that **Joe Yarbrough** needs help with Mt. Diablo Senior Class on Tuesdays each week in the same meeting room we use for our club meetings. 8:00 A.M. until 1:00PM. Volunteers to help, men or women accepted on a regular basis. Call Joe for details at 682-3894.

The program for the evening was "CERT" (Community Emergency Response Team) given by member Sharon Neuhauser,

member of the Community Emergency Response Team in her home town of Pleasant Hill. This very serious program had a few comical twists, with Sharon donning her emergency jacket, goggles, and raising her crescent wrench to make sure everyone knows the main use. This program is given in many communities, it involves 6 weeks, 20 hours, and lots of study & work outdoors. CERT is part of ICS (Incident Command System) under police & fire, as first responders in a disaster or earthquake.

"DO THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF GOOD FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE"

Sharon covered many aspects of the course but was unable in 30 minutes to give all detailed lessons learned. Disasters take lives, ruin heath, and the environment is endangered. There are natural disasters, technical, chemical, radiological, man-made terrorism, plus fires and earthquakes! Be prepared, be informed. Think before you act! Join a CERT team in your community.

Our second program for the evening was from Sam Woolsey who displayed how to setup & use one of or display cases for the show. Sam & Matt Matthews made all new display cases last year. They fold up nicely to store, and are very easy to setup. Sam then showed a few tricks in setting up a display for our show. We need more members to volunteer to display. If you would like to setup a display at the November show and don't have display items, the club has excellent minerals that can be loaned to you to setup for the show. If you are interested in setting up a display, please let Sam Woolsey or Ann Matthews know soon. There will be classes on October 7th and 14th to learn more about displays and to make risers and other accessories for your displays.

Charlotte Bochra was absent for the meeting so Hazel Woolsey and Betty Pankey organized refreshments. Thanks to Ann Matthews we had a delicious cake to celebrate 56 years of our club. We're pretty sure that Al Scheif is the longest standing member of our club. Great refreshments & friendship was shared by all.

Sharon Neuhauser, Substitute Secretary.

October Program

It's that time of year for our annual auction. Every year we hold an auction during our October general meeting. We ask that you bring in items to donate for the auction, the items do not need to be "rock' or "lapidary" related. The proceeds of the auction are donated to the Dietrich Educational Scholarship Fund which is administered by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS).

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See you there.

November Program

"Northern Arizona Redrock Geology"

Let's explore the geology around Page, Arizona with a narrated slide show. Jim Scheihing will show us elegantly sculpted slot canyons, unusual hoodoos, and the Wave. Some of these wonders are easily accessible, but some are only easy to view of you attend the November meeting. I have seen Jim's presentation and the photography by itself is beautiful. Jim is a retired geologist and a docent with the California Academy of Sciences. He leads docent training trips to these geologic wonders – so ask lots of questions.

Dennis Freiburger, 2nd Vice President

December Program

The program for December will be our annual Holiday dinner and installation of new officers.

Ecology Report

"Clear Creek, San Benito County"

Many CCM&GS members hold a special fondness for Clear Creek - San Benito County, California. Brian White (Project Coordinator for the Clear Creek Management Area -Bureau of Land Management) will present to a meeting of the Bay Area Mineralogists in Los Altos. This meeting is intended to be a dialog between the BLM and organizations such as our own CCM&GS.

Plan on attending the meeting for a unique insight into the BLM's priorities and insights. Bring your treasured San Benito specimens to show. The meeting is in Building 5400, Foothill College, El Monte Road, Los Altos at 8:00 PM, Wednesday, October 11.

Dennis Freiburger, 2nd Vice President

Membership Report

No new members this month, but we did receive several applications. So stand by for new member announcement next month.

We received the new Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society patches and pins. I will have those available for purchase at the monthly meetings. Please see me if you are interested in patches and pins. Plus we still have lots of "Rockhound" decals too.

Kim Kleesattel Membership Chair

October Birthdays

Louise Gilley	10/4
Charlie Cameron	10/4
Alan Kilpatrick	10/4
Scott Pevahouse	10/12
Bill McKay	10/15
Sandy Rouze	10/17
Chuck Finster	10/17
Ken Williamson	10/18
Bill Morgan	10/19
Richard Dennis	10/26
B.J. Heitz	10/26
Sheri Current	10/27
Barbara Matz	10/27
Marty Wharton	10/29

October Anniversaries

Nicholas & Sharla Cane

10/27

Opal -The October Birthstone

Opal, the October birthstone was highly prized by the Greeks and Romans. One ancient in about 500B.C. said, "the delicate color and tenderness of opal reminds me of a loving and beautiful child." Pliny prized the opal so highly that he ranked it next to emeralds. He described it in such glowing terms that modern writers still quote his description.

Opal is an extremely beautiful gemstone and is cherished because of its mystic display of colors. Almost every color in the spectrum, from colorless to shaded with tints of red, yellow, green, blue, black, or white are found in opal. It occurs in a wide variety of shapes and forms and is often transparent or opaque. The luster of the numerous varieties of opal may be vitreous, subvitreous, resinous, pearly or a dull.

Opal is made up of silica similar to quartz; however, there is a big difference between the two. Opal is not crystallized like quartz and may contain up 15 percent water. In the earth, opal was likely a silica gel because of the great pressures and temperatures deep underground. Super heated waters dissolved silica from existing rocks and transported it upward to the earths crust. As the temperature and pressure dropped near the earth's surface, the silica filled joints, veins, and fissures with opal.

You can find opal in sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. It is the chief constituent in the skeletons of diatoms and petrified wood. Opal is most commonly found in regions of mountain building, lava flows, ash beds and sedimentary rocks that are in contact with igneous rocks. Many

impurities found in opal, such as iron oxide, alumina, lime, magnesia and alkalies account for the several different varieties of opal.

Opal held its coveted prestige with it's owners until Sir Walter Scott wrote a book in 1829 chastising the stone, saying it brought bad luck to holders of the gemstone. Another bit of fiction further perpetrated the decline of opal jewelry. It was said an enchanted Princess wore a beautiful opal in her hair that glowed in response to her mood. One day a few drops of water accidentally touched her opal and it faded immediately. The Princess died and all that remained of her body the next day were ashes on the spot where she fell.

Superstition has its truths (?) so be careful wearing opal gemstones.

Harry W. Short, CCMG

Field Trip Calendar

October 7. Berkeley, CA. To collect blue agates. Hosted by Marin Mineral Society.

October 7, 8. Verdi, NV. Geologic tour of the Truckee River. Hosted by Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

October 7, 8. Gabbs, NV. To collect fluorite, orange calcite, garnet, magnesium. Hosted by Sacramento Mineral Society.

October 14 – 15. Searles Lake, Trona, CA. To collect halite, hanksite, & other minerals. Associated with Trona Show.

October 21. Clear Creek (Gilroy, CA) To collect plasma agate, jadeite, and calcite rose. Hosted by Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.

November 22 – 26. Barstow, CA. To collect jasper and fluorite. Hosted by Mother Lode Mineral Society.

January 11 – 15, 2007. Burrow Creek (near Wickieup, AZ) To collect purple agate, opalite, jasper, and apache tears. Hosted by Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society.

June 26 – July 9, 2007. Minas Gerais, Brazil. Gem, Mineral, & Mining Tour. Sponsored by Gem & Mineral Council / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Information at www.nhm.org/gmc/brazil Contact Jean Brandt at email ibrandt@nhm.org or telephone (213) 763-3326.

For more information, contact Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman, CCM&GS.

Proposed Field Trip Namibia, Africa

The Gem & Mineral Council / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is planning a mining, mineral, and gemstone trip to Namibia, Africa for 2007. This trip will possibly be announced within the next few weeks. Historically, these new trip destinations book-out full the same day that they are announced. If you want a chance to possibly go on this trip, contact the Council now and get on the announcement list. Contact Jean Brandt at email jbrandt@nhm.org or telephone (213) 763-3326.

Dennis Freiburger

Various Shows & Events

October 11. Hayward, CA. "Gem, Mineral, and Mine Tour of Minas Gerais, Brazil" Slide Show and Talk by Dennis Freiburger of CCM&GS. Hosted by Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley. 7:30 PM, Mount. Eden Presbyterian Church, 26236 Adrian Avenue.

October 11. Los Altos, CA. "Clear Creek Management Area (San Benito County, CA) – A presentation by the Bureau of Land Management." Hosted by the Bay Area Mineralogists. Building 5400, Foothill College.

October 14. Santa Cruz, CA. North Bay Field Trips Association Fall Meeting. Hosted by Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society. Masonic Temple, 828 N. Branciforte Avenue.

October 14 - 15. Grass Valley, CA. Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Show. Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road.

October 14 - 15. Trona, CA. Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society Show. Web site at: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 21 – 22. Placerville, CA. El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society Show. County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive.

October 24. Novato, CA. "Karakoram Highway from Pakistan to Central Asia" Slide Show and Talk by Dennis Freiburger of CCM&GS. Hosted by Marin Mineral Society. 7:30 PM, Church, 375 Calle Arboleda.

October 28 – 29. Stockton, CA. Earth's Treasures. Hosted by Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club. San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 1658 Airport Way.

November 3 – 5. Eugene, OR. Springfield Thunderegg Club Show. Oakway Center, 112 Coburg Road.

November 4 – 5. Concord, CA. Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Show. Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road.

November 4 – 5. Ridgecrest, CA. Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Show. Deserte Empire Fairgrounds, 520 South Richmond Road.

November 10 – 12. Sacramento, CA. Sacramento Mineral Society Show. Scottish Rite Center. 6151 H Street.

November 11 - 12. Yuba City, CA. Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society Show. Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Avenue. November 11 – 12. Anaheim, CA. American Opal Society Show. Clarion Hotel, 616 Convention Way.

November 18 – 19. Livermore, CA. Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Club. The Barn, 3131 Pacific Avenue.

November 18 – 19. Victorville, CA. Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show. San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th Street.

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

Education Report October 2006

Lapidary Arts and Crafts

Coming up this month!

October 22nd (Sunday): XX Knot Bead Class w/Ophelia Hicks

A wonderfully creative lady, Ophelia is once again graciously volunteering to teach a class, and this time it is the art of **XX knot** beading. Ophelia displayed her beautiful necklaces at the September meeting and will have them to show at the October general meeting. There is still time to sign up! Location: Hicks' residence at 1560 Apple Drive, Concord. Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

More classes, etc!

November: Stay tuned for news about a "mystery" jewelry making class to be held November 30th (Thursday) and/or December 1st (Friday).

The CCM&GS show rules the month – November 4 and 5!

Please volunteer to work at the show Friday, 11/3 through Sunday, 11/5

Contact Hazel Woolsey to find out where your talents can best be utilized! ☺

Reserve a showcase

Talk to Ann Matthews about displaying some of your favorite treasures. We would love to see them! ☺

Speaking of showcases ... Lapidary Arts and Crafts will display club member class projects. Please have your favorites ready for showcase setup on Friday, November 3rd. They will be returned to you at the club meeting the following Friday. Thanks for showing them!

Joanne Caskey, Arts & Crafts

September Secret Auction Results

We had another great monthly auction in September. Thank you to all that placed bids. The winners for September Auction items are:

- Mary Jernigan Petrified Wood Bookends
- 2. Onyx No Bid
- 3. Graveyard Point Agate No Bid
- 4. Mary JerniganPetrified Wood
- Mike Luebke Ulexite
- Joanne Caskey Drusy Quartz Stalactite
- 7. Oolite No Bid
- 8. Kelly Plumb Zoisite with Rubies

Because of our annual auction in October, there will be no Secret Auction next month.

Show/Property Chair Report October, 2006

As we come down to the wire, efforts and actions on behalf of our annual gem and mineral show accelerate. The rent has been paid, insurance secured, dealers and demonstrators all confirmed, and exhibitor show-case assignments finalized.

Speaking of show cases, three members have graciously volunteered to assist in the presentation of up to five of our "in memoriam" displays. The remaining preparations are almost all related to insuring that the club's equipment and materials are in-place and in good working order. A final show staff meeting will be held this month to coordinate the various set-up and tear-down schedules, re-introduce the staff and their various responsibilities to each other, and a work party or two finalize the trailer load.

There are still plenty of slots open for all kinds of helpers – setup/tear down, as well as show staff during show days. Sign-up sheets will again be available at October's auction night. Don't let this opportunity to learn a new trade from gourmet sous-chef to Wall-Mart greeter slip through your hands!!

Reserve your work-days and jobs, now! November 3 (set-up), 4th and 5th show days, 2006!

Sam Woolsey, Show/Property Chair.

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Gem & Mineral Show and Sale November 4-5, 2006 Saturday, Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Centre Concord Clayton Fair Shopping Center 5298 Clayton Rd. Concord, CA 94521 Admission \$3 Under 12 w/Adult, Scouts in uniform, Free \$1 off with flyer

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club 55th Annual Earth's Science Show October 28 & 29, 2006 - Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-Admission \$4.00 Children 12 & under OR in uniform, free with adult

San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 2
1658 Airport Way, Stockton, CA
Dealers--Rocks--Minerals--Fossils--Beads
Tools--Jewelry Supplies--Books
Plenty of Children's Activities
Many Beautiful Display Cases
\$1.00 off Admission with this coupon
Free Parking near the Building
Food, Fun and Excitement for All

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
ROCK & GEM SHOW
OCTOBER 21 & 22
10 AM - 5 PM
DEALERS - DISPLAYS - DEMONSTRATIONS
SPECIAL CRYSTAL EXHIBITS

Fairgrounds, Placerville
Admission \$3
Kids 12/under Free
Bring a Coatfor a Kid and Get Free Admission for Adult

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: Second Friday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, downtown Concord (corner of Salvio and Colfax)

Free Parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Associate \$5, Junior \$1

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND

Board and Committee Members - 2006

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