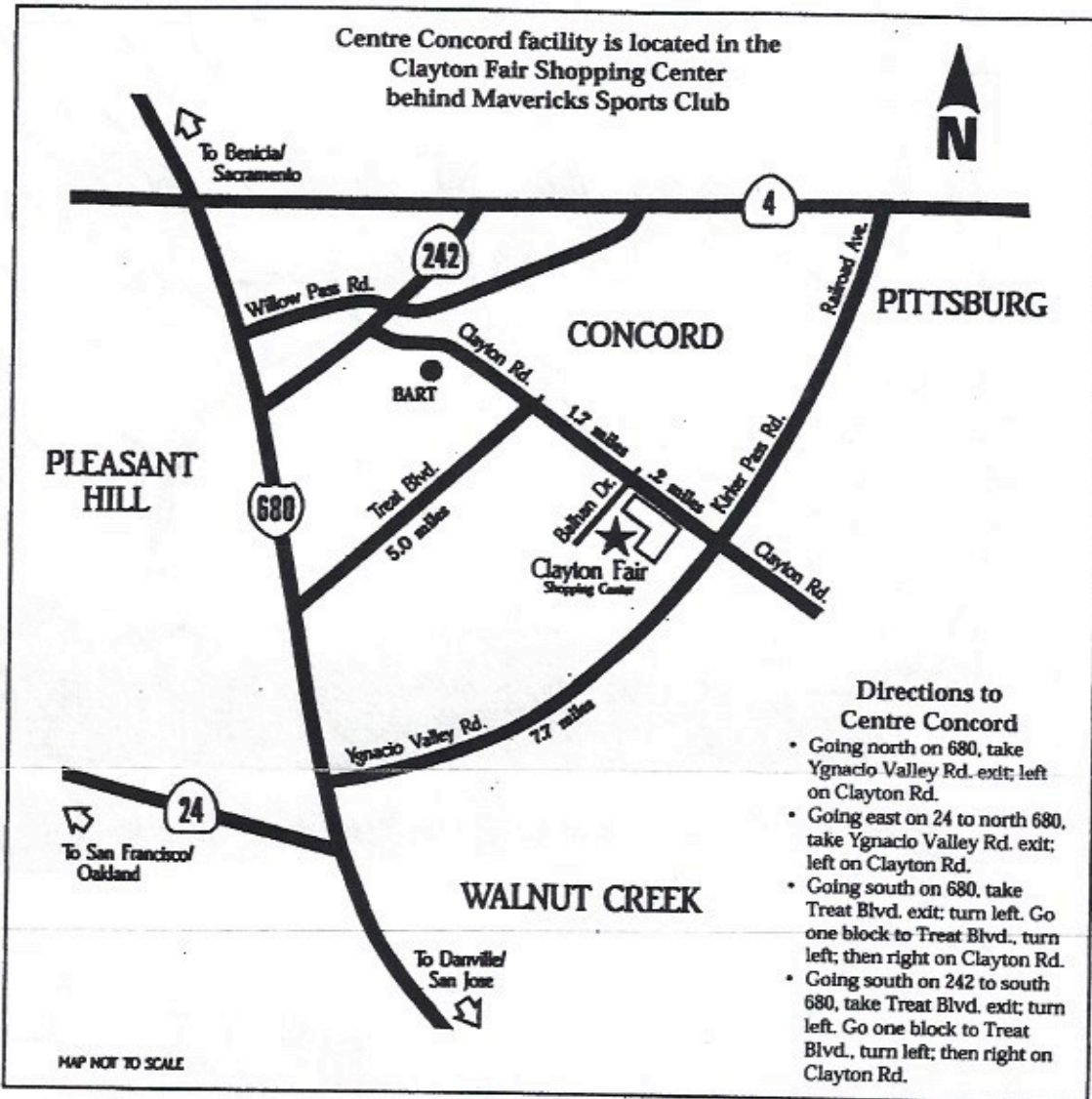


Contra Costa
Mineral & Gem Society
Contra Costa County, California

JANUARY 2008



Centre Concord
 5298 Clayton Road
 Tel: 925-671-3466



Close-up of Clayton Fair Shopping Center

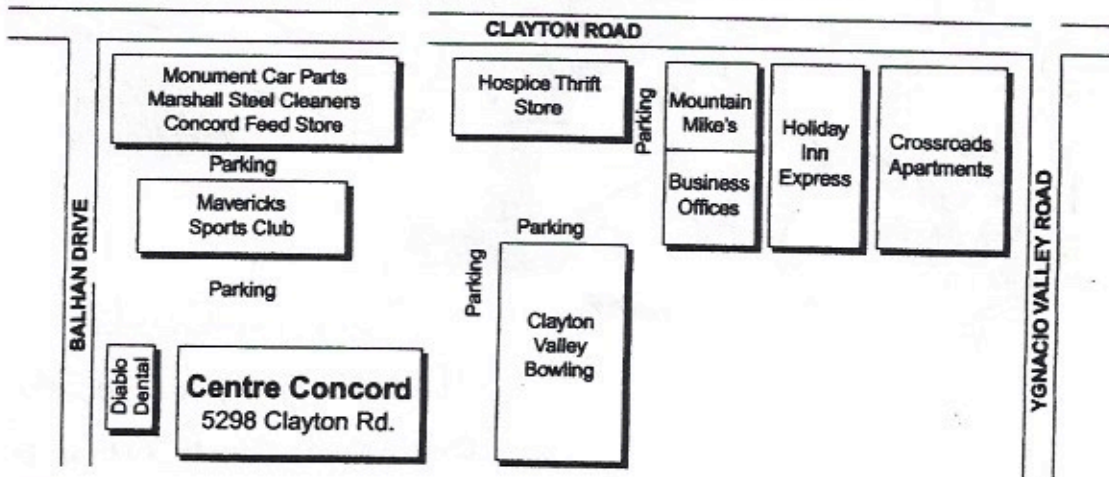


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**Next General Meeting of the
CCM&GS is: Monday,
January 14th, 2008, at
CENTRE CONCORD.
Meeting is at 7:30 PM.
Please mark your calendars.**

January 6th Board of Directors Meeting

The January Board of Directors meeting will be at President Mary Hicks' home in Antioch. The meeting is scheduled for January to start at 2:30 PM. Those attending who wish to stay after the meeting for a pot luck dinner are invited to do so.

Refreshments

This is a list of members who we request to please bring refreshments to share at the January General Meeting:

Steve Davis
Richard and Susan Dennis
Bonnie Eichler
Doug Ellis
Chuck Finster
Laura Fitzpatrick
Tom Francis
Dennis Freiburger and Patty Wintroath
Louise Gilley

CCM&GS December 9th Board of Directors Meeting

The BOD meeting was held at Joanne & Terry Caskey's home. The meeting started at 6:39 pm. Board Members present: **Mary Hicks, Joanne & Terry Caskey, Kim & David Kleesattel, Dick Pankey, Mary Jernigan, Harry Nichandros, Therese Clark, and Sam & Hazel Woolsey.**

President **Mary Hicks** started the meeting by handing out copies of the meeting agenda. Mary then requested any Old or New Business items that need to be added to the agenda.

Hazel Woolsey made a motion to accept the November BOD minutes as presented in the newsletter, **Sam Woolsey** seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Show Chair, **Sam Woolsey** did not present a report but will provide additional information regarding the recent show during the general meeting. But he did say it was the best show ever, our dealers were very happy with our show.

1st Vice President, and Program Director, **Harry Nichandros** did not present a report but stated that he has arranged several programs for next year. More information will be available in the newsletters.

Dick Pankey, Federation Director, discussed a proposal for the CCM&GS to host the CFMS Field Trip – North Seminar on Checking Land Status (that is, knowing where you are and knowing the status of the land – Public or Private) next April. The proposal was discussed. The BOD requested that a minimum attendance be established to make the meeting cost effective. Dick Pankey made a motion to accept the proposal, **Harry Nichandros** seconded, and the BOD approved the proposal. See newsletter for more Federation news.

2nd Vice President, **Dennis Freiburger** was not present. Please read the newsletter for upcoming trips.

Treasurer, **Connie Klein** was not present. Mary Hicks reported that Connie has met with Barbara Brown, the treasurer for 2008. An Audit Committee will be set up in January after closing our books for 2007. Our P.O. Box has been paid for 2008.

Membership Chair **Kim Kleesattel** reported that she only 48 members had renewed for 2008, please pay your dues. She submitted

the applications for 4 new members (see newsletter for details). **Dick Pankey** motioned to accept the new members, **Therese Clarke** seconded the motion, and the motion passed. We discussed the possibility of have a new member category for those who want to receive copies of the newsletter, but who do not participate in club activities during the year. No resolution of this discussion.

Hospitality, **Therese Clark** announced that the Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner Picnic would be held on December 14 (doors open at 6:00, dinner at 7:00) at the First Presbyterian Church. More details are available in the newsletter. **Barb Matz** will be installing the 2008 Officers.

Ecology, **Sharon Neuhauser** was unable to attend the meeting (get well soon). It's time to renew our ALAA Membership (\$50/year). Sharon will be named the contact. **Dick Pankey** made a motion to renew, **Hazel Woolsey** seconded, the motion passed.

Publicity, **Mary Jernigan**. Mary made and distributed club information to each of the BOD members. Mary also presented an outline to publicize the club. Mary Hicks and Mary Jernigan will get together to identify and follow through on practical goals.

Display Chair, **Joe Yarbrough**. Not present, but will make awards at the General Meeting.

Historian, **Hazel Woolsey**. Present but no report.

Secretary and Past President **Dave Kleesattel** was present, but had no news to report. Received correspondence was distributed.

Education, Arts & Crafts Chair **Joanne Caskey**. Please forward ideas for next year's education classes to Rana. See the newsletter for information.

Editor **Luree Heese** was not present. The due date for the January newsletter is December 20. Mary Hicks announced that **Bonnie Eichler** will be the new editor for 2008. Please send newsletter submittals to Bonnie and, as back up, to both Mary Hicks and Dave Kleesattel.

Mary Hicks presented additional information regarding changing the General Meeting location. There were several concerns (presented to the Board Members) regarding our current meeting location, and Mary found an alternative location (Centre Concord). Mary Hicks contacted the church to discuss our concerns and seek solutions. However, the church would no longer provide the meeting room on Friday nights. The church offered Thursday night, but the parking lot would not be available for our use (we would need to use the Public Parking on Salvio Street). After receiving and evaluating the church's response to our concerns, May Hick prepared and presented a detailed comparison between potential meeting locations. Dick Pankey made a motion to change the meeting location to Centre Concord on the 2nd Monday of the month. The BOD discussed the motion. The motion was seconded by Hazel Woolsey. The BOD voted on the motion, 7 Yea votes, 2 Nay votes, the motion carried. The January General Meeting will be on Monday January 14th in the Centre Concord activities room. A map will be provided in the January 2008 Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Dave Kleesattel, Secretary



President's Message

The December Holiday Party was a lot of fun and I hope all the members have the best holiday season and we will see each other next year. And speaking of next year, if you have not learned about the club's 2008 new meeting day and location, here is the information:

**LOCATION: CENTRE CONCORD
ROOM: ACTIVITY CENTER
WHEN: The Second MONDAY of the
MONTH at 7:30 P.M.**

The next General meeting is JANUARY 14th at 7:30 P.M. at Centre Concord. If you are not sure of the location of the Centre, please refer to the map that is included in this newsletter.

The Activity Center is the room that we held the General meeting in October 2007 for the Auction. During the annual Education Show, this room is where the Diablo Dan Café, Grab Bags, Display Cases, etc., are located. For the General Meeting, enter through the side door via the ramp.

Vice President of Programs, Harry Nichandros has another special program planned for our enjoyment at the January meeting. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mary Hicks, President

WANTED: A Librarian. The CCM&GS needs a member to take care of the club's library, support members checking out and returning books and tapes, purchasing replacement or new books, promoting the use of the Library in the monthly newsletter. Call me if you have question or can support this club position. To volunteer contact Mary Hicks at maryhicks@comcast.net or 779-0698.

December 14th General Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by President **Mary Hicks** at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was lead by **Marlow Hicks**. Mary welcomed everybody to the annual Holiday Potluck Dinner. Mary announced that the **Monthly General Meeting time and location will be moving to the 2nd Monday of the month at the Centre Concord** (where we have our November show). Maps are available for those who need them.

During dinner, **Mary Hicks** awarded the 2007 Board of Directors with gift Diablo Dan coffee mugs.

After dinner, **Joe Yarbrough** announced this year's winners of the Cabochon and Faceted Stone monthly competitions. The winners are:
Terry Caskey – Novice Cabochon category
Glenn MacKenzie – Faceted Stone category
David Kleesattel – Cabochon Shape of the Month category

Joe Yarbrough – Pro Cabochon category
 Mary Hicks awarded the title of *Honorary Member of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society* to **Glenn MacKenzie**. Glenn has been a long-time member and has served many Board of Director positions. Glenn has taught many classes for the CCM&GS and continues to demonstrate one of his many expert skills, wire wrapping, at our annual show. Please congratulate Glenn for achieving this honor.

Mary awarded **Charles & Brownie Cameron** with the CFMS *Education Through Sharing* recognition. Charles & Brownie have been instrumental over the years in helping our club become the great organization that it is today. Unfortunately Charles & Brownie were unable to attend the meeting and receive their award,

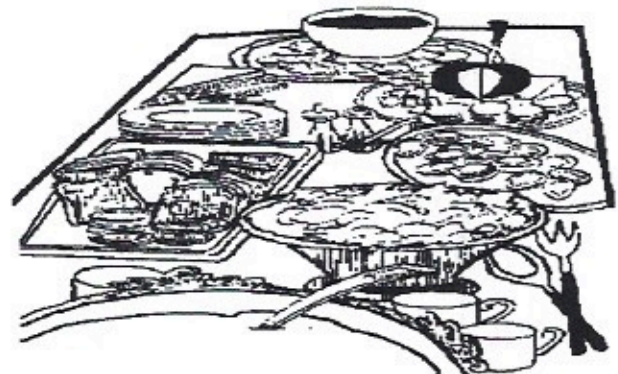
so please congratulate them the next time you see them.

Member **Barb Matz** swore in the CCM&GS Officers for 2008:
 President – **Mary Hicks**
 1st Vice President and Program Chair – **Harry Nichandros**
 2nd Vice President and Field Trip Chair – **Dennis Freiburger**
 Treasurer – **Barbara Brown**
 Federation Director – **Dick Pankey**
 Secretary – **David Kleesattel**

Hospitality Chair **Therese Clark** held the Door Prize and Christmas Gift raffle. Then Therese and Harry emceed the WHOOZIT game where club members revealed secrets about their pasts and we tried to guess who did what. If you missed that, you missed finding out those choice tid-bits about fellow club members.

And to wrap up this year's activities, **Sam Woolsey**, Show Chairman, presented he final facts and figures about this year's very successful show. Sam also called out and gave special thanks to club members who helped with this year's show. Making the show a success is a team effort and everybody's help is needed and appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30 pm.
David Kleesattel, Secretary



January Birthdays



Mary Hicks	1/1
Kim Kleesattel	1/3
Karen Rice	1/3
Laura Fitzpatrick	1/4
Glen Hubbard	1/5
Gary Walls	1/11
Steve Davis	1/13
Lynne Hill	1/14
Marian Alden	1/17
Ophelia Hicks	1/20
Jeanette Travers	1/22
Linda Minnich	1/22
Dave Cunningham	1/23
Pat Bon	1/23
Nicholas Cane	1/25
Lee McIlvaine	1/25
Lyle Roessler	1/28

January Anniversaries

Glen & Betty Mackenzie	1/1
Dave & Kim Kleesattel	1/1
Ron & Jeanie Russo	1/3
Ken & Nancy Whitlach	1/15

Membership Report

I am pleased to announce 4 new members this month. Please join me in welcoming the following new members:

Vivian Kuhl. Vivian is retired and is interested in bead stringing, carving, casting, field trips, fossils, geology, and mineralogy.

Pam Lewis and Herb Clark. Pam is a Registered Nurse and Herb is auto technician. They are interested in enameling, field trips, geology, and mineralogy. They have a tumbler.

Cindy Luke. Cindy is a Document Coordinator and is interested in bead stringing, fossils, field trips, geology, and mineralogy.

The new roster will be out early next year with all the contact information for the new, and should I dare say "old" members. If you need a club member's contact information before then, please call me.

Dues are Due

Your 2008 club dues are now due. The dues have not changed for next year and remain at the bargain price of \$10 for members, \$15 for couples, and \$1 for juniors (under the age of 18). Please send your membership dues to **Kim Kleesattel**. Checks can be made payable to either the "Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society" or to "CCM&GS".

Pins, Patches, Decals

I have Diablo Dan lapel pins and cloth patches, and the rockhound decals for your vehicles available for sale. The lapel pins are \$2.50 each, the patches are \$3.00 each, and the decals are \$0.50 each. Please see me at the next meeting. These are great ways to show off our club and to identify yourself as a rockhound.

Kim Kleesattel, Membership Chair

ROCK ART BASICS

Submitted by J Caskey

My comments ... some folks are inspired to paint and/or carve their initials, etc. on dirt or rock surfaces while hiking along a trail or under a highway overpass! Much of this will purposely be removed as it really isn't very attractive or proper! We, of the 21st century call that "graffiti" and would claim the act is "defacing" property.

Hundreds to thousands of years ago, cave men and native Indians scratched and painted not only their initials, but pictures on rocks and in caves. These etchings and drawings have historic and cultural value today, and are studied and kept safe from destruction.

If you haven't visited any petroglyph or pictograph sites in your travels, please do so. There is a petroglyph/pictograph site on the tour list, close by, per reservation through East Bay Regional Parks at Vasco Caves Regional Preserve in SE Contra Costa County.

Also, there is a large area of wonderful petroglyphs and pictographs located at Lava Bed National Monument, at Tule Lake in Northern California, which is a drive-by tour. Take your time viewing, and take photos. The story of these petroglyph/pictographs is on display at the Lava Beds National Monument Visitor Center, a few miles away, where you can also experience being in numerous lava tube caves on site (a story for another time).



The following article on "rock art" comes from the Deer Valley Rock Art Center, University of Arizona, Phoenix.
<http://www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/dvrac/>

"What is Rock Art?"

Rock Art is a term used for designs made on rocks or on the earth's surface by people in the past.

Petroglyphs are designs made by carving or scratching away the dark layer of rock varnish on a rock's surface to reveal the lighter rock underneath. Rock varnish is a thin layer of tiny clay particles which are deposited on rocks in desert environments. These clay particles are attached to rock surfaces by bacteria that live there. Manganese in the clay gives rock varnish a dark color. In time, the color of the exposed interior becomes more like the color of the surface because of the rock varnish's re-growth.

There are several techniques for making petroglyphs. Striking one rock with another is called direct percussion. Indirect percussion refers to pecking the surface of one rock by holding a second rock as if it were a chisel and striking that with a third rock. A third technique, resulting in various line depths, is to scrape at the surface of the rock.

Pictographs are designs made by painting on rocks or in caves. Colorful plants and minerals were ground up and mixed with protein based liquids such as egg, blood, or urine to make different colors of paint. The pigments were applied using sticks, brushes, fingers or hands.

Who made rock art?

Rock Art was made by people all over the world. Much of it was made by prehistoric people. American Indians made most of the rock art in North America.

When was rock art made?

Rock art has been made for many thousands of years. In North America and Mexico, some rock art might be as much as 10,000 years old.

Other rock art is probably less than a few hundred years old.

Interpreting Rock Art

There are no universal explanations that can be applied to all petroglyphs and pictographs. People who study rock art do not always know why it was made. Many rock art designs are probably symbols that meant something to the people who made them. Some rock art may tell a story or mark a trail. Some of it was made for religious ceremonies. Other rock art was made to ensure successful hunting. It may have also been used to keep track of the seasons.

Even within a single culture group, rock art may be created for a variety of reasons. Appearance alone does not reveal the meaning of images. For example, the image of a deer may mean more than just "deer". Depending on the circumstances, it could represent:

- an expression - "this animal is good to eat"
- part of a hunting ritual - to increase the fertility of the animal or enable the hunter to capture it
- an aspect of the animal - the swiftness of a deer
- a clan symbol - therefore representing a group of people, not the animal
- illustration of transformation - a shaman or person on a vision quest shifting between human and animal states.

Why did people make rock art?

To investigate why people made rock art and how they used it, archeologists examine where it is located in relation to living areas and to the landscape and they also consider the culture and lifestyles of the maker.

Most rock art is integral to the history, rituals and belief systems of the people who made it. Rock art may have been created for a variety of reasons: magic, ritual, place markers,

shamanism, vision quest, symbols or important events.

Where can I find rock art?

Rock art can be found in most countries of the world and all states of the United States. Good places to look are on rocks near trails, on cliff walls, and in caves. Rock art is often found near archeological sites.

Studying Rock Art

Archeologists sometimes study rock art in different areas to investigate possible reasons for the similarities and differences. For example, if the rock art is similar in two distant areas, there may be similar cultural aspects between the makers. Conversely, if the rock art in two nearby areas is very different, it may point to distinct cultural differences between two groups.

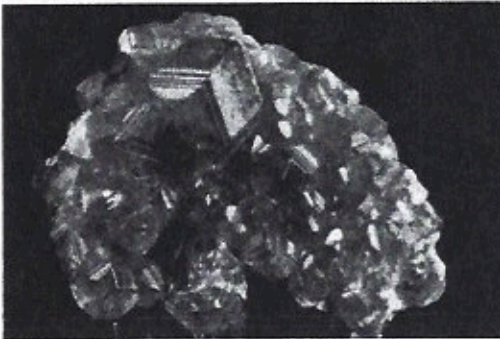
Identification & Classification

When studying rock art, many aspects are considered. The appearance is described by identifying single images, called elements. Elements can be representational (depicting animals, people or plants) or abstract lines, spirals and dots. Single or multiple elements are sometimes repeated to cover a large surface. Complex panels may combine numerous representational and abstract elements.

Researchers classify rock art styles according to elements, figures, compositions and techniques that are consistent within a geographic area and time period. Once a style is defined, it is used to associate images with specific cultural groups and histories."

I am looking forward to finding out more about this most interesting topic and will put petroglyph/pictograph tours on my list of things to do in the near future ... how about you?

This Month's Birthstone – GARNET



(The following information is extracted from Wikipedia on the Internet)

GARNET is a group of minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Garnets are most often seen in red, but are available in a wide variety of colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, pink and colorless. The rarest of these is the blue garnet, discovered in the late 1990's in Bekily, Madagascar. It is also found in parts of the United States, Russia and Turkey. It changes color from blue-green in the daylight to purple in incandescent light, as a result of the relatively high amounts of vanadium. Other varieties of color-changing garnets exist. In daylight, their color ranges from shades of green, beige, brown, gray, and blue, but in incandescent light, they appear a reddish or purplish/pink color. Because of their color changing quality, this kind of garnet is often mistaken for Alexandrite.

Garnet species' light transmission properties can range from the gemstone-quality transparent specimens to the opaque varieties used for industrial purposes as abrasives. The mineral's luster is categorized as vitreous (glass-like) or resinous (amber-like).

Pure crystals of garnet are used as gemstones. Garnet sand is a good abrasive, and a common

replacement for silica sand in sand blasting. Mixed with very high pressure water, garnet is used to cut steel and other materials in water jets. Garnet sand is also used for water filtration media.

General Properties

Category: nesosilicates; Crystal habit: rhombic dodecahedra or cubic; Cleavage: none; Fracture: conchoidal to uneven; Mohs Scale Hardness: 6.0 – 7.5

Interesting Facts & Information

- In the USA it is known as the birthstone for January
- It is the gemstone for the 2nd wedding anniversary
- It is the state mineral of Connecticut
- It is also New York's gemstone

According to "The Healing Properties of Gemstones", a GARNET is most often used as a general tonic for the whole system - physical, mental and emotional.

The garnet:

- is regenerative and revitalizing, strengthening the blood and helping with anemia and circulatory problems.
- protects against infection, depression and skin diseases.
- brings into consciousness the physical powers.
- is particularly recommended for those who need to improve their self-respect and self-confidence, pride and success, and to increase their courage when dealing with changes.
- improves imagination.
- assists in dream work and in past life recall.
- increases determination, energy and courage.
- attracts love, and promotes bonding.

If you found this information about January's birthstone to be of interest to you, be sure to read about February's birthstone next month.

Submitted by J. Caskey

Christmas Meeting and Food Drive

Thanks to Santa's Helpers, and in particular to Therese Clark, for organizing the Christmas dinner at the December meeting. It was a FEAST to behold. We have some great and creative chefs in the club. There's an old saying -- "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach." -- With all of those delicious looking salads, entrees and desserts to select from, well, that old saying proved true. HMMM -- do you suppose we could do this at every meeting???

In response to the plea to help alleviate hunger for the needy, members at the Christmas meeting brought canned goods. Some members were very generous with their donation which included a \$20 gift certificate from a lovely young lady. On Wednesday, December 19th, my son Mark and I delivered 159 pounds of your food items (along with 42 pounds from family members) and the cash gift to the Contra Costa Food Bank. On behalf of the individuals or families who will benefit from this donation, THANK YOU. Thank you all for participating in this worthy cause. Enjoy your Holiday Season, have a Happy, Healthy and Successful Rock Hunting New Year.

Mary Bufton, Member CCM&GS

CCM&GS Programs -- And a look ahead

I am very pleased with the CCM&GS monthly programs of 2007. Many have told me our club is privileged to have such a rich resource of programs, variety of topics, and quality speakers.

The interest is evident in the marked rise in attendance. Monthly attendance has doubled. We regularly have 55 members and guests. And in April we exceeded 75 for Ken Whitlatch's talk on Happy Camp vesuvianite. Continued large turnouts are also an important factor in arranging for top-notch speakers.

The quality of our programs has been the envy of other gem & mineral societies, and geologic societies. I have been told CCM&GS may even be the premier venue for earth science presentations in the East Bay.

Coming up for 2008 is an ever more prestigious cadre of speakers and programs. I have been discussing speaking opportunities with some for over a year. Many have agreed to travel hundreds of miles.

CCM&GS Programs are typically scheduled months ahead of the general meeting. Many have told me they appreciate the advanced scheduling.

Presented in the "Meeting Program Calendar" are the first four months of scheduled programs for 2008. Do to the change in the CCM&GS meeting date, scheduled speakers may be unable to adjust to the alternate date. I am discussing program changes with these and other speakers scheduled throughout the year.

Thanks for the support of all of you at CCM&GS.

Harry Nichandros -- VP, Programs

Future Meeting Program Calendar

Program Chairman's Note: Presented are the first four months of scheduled events. Due to

the change in meeting date, programs may be canceled and must be considered tentative. Please refer to my article "CCM&GS Programs – And a look ahead". – Harry

January, 2008: *Rocks of New Mexico* with Heinz Dreier. Heinz talks about the rocks and minerals of New Mexico, and his recent collecting trip.

February, 2008: *Geology and Poetry - the Russian Connection*. Dr. Paul Belasky, Ohlone College, investigates modern Russian poetry by the school of geology in St. Petersburg. Such poems and songs embodied ideas that changed attitudes and helped open Soviet society. Live recordings.

March, 2008: *The idea that changed the world –Plate Tectonics* by Tonya Atwater, University of California, Santa Barbara. Seventeen dives to the deep-sea thermal vents; the cutting edge of science; published author. A wealth of experience. Enchanting ideas. Brilliantly expressive. **Don't miss this opportunity!**

April, 2008: *Ancient Plants and Fossils - Identification and Discovery* by Ed Rigel, CCM&GS show exhibitor and co-owner of Applegate Lapidary in Volcano, CA

Harry Nichandros – VP, Programs

January 23 – 27. Quartzite, AZ. Several day field trips to collect various materials. Hosted by Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Club.

January 27 – February 1. Blythe, CA (Wiley Well District). To collect geodes and petrified wood. Hosted by Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society.

March 8. Morgan Hill, CA. To collect Poppy Jasper. Hosted by Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Societies.

April 5. Lovelock, NV. To collect fossils and petrified wood. Hosted by Fossils for Fun Society.

April 19 (Rain date May 17). Stonyford, CA. To collect solid orbicular jasper. Hosted by Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society.

April 26. Pulga, CA (North of Oroville). To collect Idocrase (Pulga Jade). Hosted by Paradise Gem & Mineral Society.

For more information about these trips contact Dennis Freiburger.



COOLIPS.COM

Field Trip Calendar

January 19. Santa Barbara, CA. To collect fossil whale bone, fossil horse teeth, chert, agate, and jasper. Hosted by California Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Various Shows & Events

January 1 – 27. Laughlin, NV. Cloud's Jamboree, Avi Resort & Casino, 10,000 Aja Macav Parkway.

* **February 23, 24. Antioch, CA.** Antioch Lapidary Club Show. Contra Costa County Fairgrounds.

February 29 – March 2. Hayward, CA. Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Show. Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Boulevard.

March 1, 2. Arcadia, CA. Monrovia Rockhounds Show. Los Angeles Arboretum, Ayers Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue.

March 1, 2. Ventura, CA. Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Show. Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Boulevard.

March 8, 9. Spreckels, CA. (Near Salinas) Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club Show. Spreckels Veterans Hall, 5th Street and Llano Street.

March 8, 9. Turlock, CA. Mother Lode Mineral Society Show. Stanislaus County Fair Grounds, 900 N. Broadway.

March 22, 23. Angles Camp, CA. Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Show. Calaveras Fairgrounds.

March 22, 23. Roseville, CA. Roseville Rock Rollers Show. Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Boulevard. (Off Washington Avenue).

More listings at Rock and Gem Magazine website: www.rockngem.com/showdates

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

Field Trip Chairman Report

"Cash and Treasures" is back for its second television season on the Travel Channel.

Several of our club members are avid watchers of this wonderfully detailed field trip show. I especially liked recent episodes to Tonopah, Nevada for turquoise and to Southern California for tourmaline. For more details go to the Website at <http://travel.discovery.com>

During most of January and early February I will not always be available for telephone calls or E-mail communications. If I do not respond fast enough, then please contact **Harry Nichandros**. Harry has volunteered to act as the Assistant Field Trip Chairman in my absence.

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman



Education Report Bead Buddies Calendar



Hi Everyone,
 This is your new Education Person writing. I need your help setting up classes for 2008. Please e-mail or call me with your class ideas. Our monthly Bead-Ins will recommence next year on the 3rd or 4th Friday of the month. I will announce the next Bead-In at the January meeting. I will keep everyone posted as the classes are scheduled.

Best Wishes,
Rana Miller-Owen, Education

2008 Show Corner

Our 2008 show, "Earth's Treasures - Large and Small," will be November 1 & 2 this year.

That means set-up on Halloween! Will there be ghosts & goblins in the set-up crew? Join us and find out, or better yet, come as one.

The dealer contracts have been sent out and 4 signed & returned. Reservations are made with Centre Concord and Party Props (table and chair rentals).

The 2006 show was better than that of 2005, and the '07 show better than '06 - actually '07 was the best ever!. And our goal for '08 is to build on these past gains, and top even the best! And, pulling together, we will do it!

Sam Woolsey, Show Chair.

Display Report

We will continue cabochon and cut stone competitions for novice and pros, as well as the shape of the month which is open to all. If you're just starting to make cabs, bring them in and win a prize. Any new faceters, or old pros out there? You can win a prize too.

The following list is intended to give a heads up for planning your efforts to win the shape of the month competition.

Terry Caskey - Display Chair

2008 Shape of the Month

January	Any shape
February	Heart shape
March	Oval
April	Round
May	Pear (Teardrop)
June	Triangle (Three acute angles)
July	Freeform (No symmetry)
August	Rectangle (Or square)
September	Marquis (Cat eye)
October	No competition (Auction night)
November	Any shape
December	No competition (Christmas party)

In addition to the competition, please bring any rock or jewel related items, including photos, to share with every one.

Terry Caskey - Display Chair

Federation Director's Report

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

The Earth Science Studies Program is dedicated to the promotion and the education of the Earth Sciences, and directed strongly toward the lapidary arts and various disciplines pertaining to it. This program is responsible for 3 weeks of classes a year, 1

week in March at a Desert Studies Center near Baker, Ca. on Zzyzx road, and two 1-week programs at Camp Paradise, which is just out of Clipper Mill, Ca. north of Marysville Ca. in September.

These programs are available at a cost of \$300 per person per week, which includes instruction, room and board. Instruction includes classes in lapidary (cabochon making), silver fabrication, wire art, soft stone carving, hard stone carving, field trips, copper enameling, and evening programs at both camps, also where space is available, primarily at Camp Paradise we teach faceting, silver and gold casting, glass bead making along with other disciplines as the cycles change.

The Earth Science Studies program at Zzyzx is scheduled for March 23 – 30, 2008. Deadline for registration is March 1st. If you are interested don't delay in registering because this session fills up fast. Forms are available on the CFMS web site at www.cfmsinc.org under Forms. If you have any questions about the session at Zzyzx please contact me.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Commemorative Stamp Committee is trying to convince the United States Postal Service to produce stamps featuring birthstones. No stamps featuring gems have ever appeared on US stamps although there have been some beautiful ones from other countries. Both AFMS members and the public should send requests to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the USPS. It is very difficult to succeed in getting a commemorative stamp. Only one in 50,000 requests succeeds.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain Birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by sending letters or

notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write. Please mail your *PERSONAL* letter to:

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory
Committee
Stamp Development
US Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013
Arlington VA 22209-6432

Personalize YOUR letter to Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee: "I support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' efforts to try to get gemstones on American stamps because": (Write you own reasons.)

- Ideas: 1. Gems have never appeared on U.S. First Class stamps, and would be very attractive.
2. They would not be controversial.
3. Gems would continue the theme of "America's Mineral Heritage" stamps.
4. The public and we would all enjoy their beauty.

Sign and date your letter and add your address. Stamp your envelope and mail it off to the address above! DO IT NOW. Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually. We are convinced that gem stamps, would be attractive.

CFMS President Message

(from the November CFMS Newsletter)

Let's Talk About Rocks

Betty and I just returned from a 10 day trip to Chicago to attend her 50th high school class reunion and to see relatives and our 2 grandsons. They are real future rockhounds; what a treat. We were invited to be "Show-N-Tell" at the 4 year old's pre-school class. What kind of rock talk do you give to pre

schoolers? So, we brought a box of rocks and told them we were rockhounds that went on field trips and liked to collect rocks. We told them that we collected rocks from the mountains, the desert and seashore, and in quarries and mine dumps, and showed them the rocks that we collected. They seemed enthralled, interested, asked questions, and were excited with the rocks. I know that we really enjoyed ourselves. It was a very rewarding experience.

Most of our clubs are 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational corporations. And as such we claim to advocate and support education about rocks, gems and minerals and our hobby. But what do we do to support education? In some clubs there are a dedicated few that regularly give talks to school science classes. In many clubs there are a few more that give occasional talks at schools and to other groups. But most members in most clubs only talk about rocks with other club members. Let's change that and I will show you how.

Talking about rocks is what we all like to do. It seems that Betty and I are always talking about rocks, our field trips, the shows we attend and making things with rocks. And I bet you do, too. Maybe not a formal, structured presentation. Many of us give educational talks to school classes, scouts and other groups. Rock talks should not be limited to kids and schools. Most adults are interested in rocks, gems and minerals. Women seem to like gems, especially in jewelry.

In my way of thinking there are two kinds/styles of presentations: 1.) A school talk, generally more science/technical oriented, given to elementary or high school earth science classes. And, 2.) General audience presentations. In most cases you don't have to be a trained geologist to give a meaningful, interesting, educational talk. School talks generally require a fair

knowledge and understanding of rocks, minerals and geology. Most of us who have been rockhounds for any length of time probably have the required basic knowledge to present a meaningful presentation, at least to elementary school classes.

A rock talk to a general audience – scouts, other youth groups, senior citizens group, a luncheon group, a related hobby group, etc. – is easy. You probably are doing it already when you tell your non-rockhound friends about your rock collection or a recent field trip. And any one who likes rocks and rockhounding can give an interesting talk to general audiences. All you need is a box of rocks, (gathered from your yard or specimen display) and you are ready to go. Your presentation does not have to be scientific. Just tell your audience about the rocks and where and/or why you collected them. Your first presentation may be a bit scary, but once you get going and your audience asks some questions it will be like talking to your family and friends. And the next talk will be even easier.

There are many benefits to giving rock talks other than being educational and meeting our club's educational objectives. They are a great way to promote your club, and your show (and other club activities), and they are a way to share what we love and to introduce others to our rock hobby. On a personal note – they are fun and can be very rewarding when you reach and make an impact on a child or spark an interest in rocks that matches your own.

Now I don't expect that everyone that reads this will start giving school talks or go on the lecture circuit, but I do hope that I have sparked an interest in you to think about and maybe try a talk or two. Try it you'll like it!

Dick Pankey

President, CFMS

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous (from the December CFMS Newsletter)

By Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips

As promised the announcement flier with detailed information on our 2008 Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous is now available. The flier has the information about the Rendezvous: material available; location; directions to camp; schedule; motels and RV parks nearby; and various activities that are planned. It is available on American, Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations' web sites and, depending on available space, may be published in your the Federation Newsletter. I request and hope that whoever in each club that receives the Newsletter will pass this information and the 2 page flier on to your club Field Trip Leader or Editor or to someone to make copies and distribute to interested members of your club. A challenge with any event is the advertising, with getting the word out to the user. In this case, to the people who might be interested in attending this field trip/rendezvous. So we are looking to the people who get the AFMS and/or your Federation Newsletter to get this information to your members.

Look for the flier and other Rendezvous information on these web sites:

AFMS – www.amfed.org

NFMS – www.amfed.org/nfms

RMFMS – www.rmfmns.org

CFMS – www.cfmsinc.org

For more information and to sign-up to attend the Rendezvous e-mail (preferred) or call your respective Federation Field Trip Leader (bottom of the first page of the flier). Or Contact me at dickpankey@juno.com.

✧ Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship. Mark your calendar, schedule your vacation, and plan to join us next May 21st to 26th.

CFMS Field Trips – North Seminar

(From the January CFMS Newsletter)

Knowing Where You Are/Checking Land Status

By Dick Pankey, Contra Costa M&GS

Last October Dave Muster, our FT-N chairman, conducted this seminar, which was received with rave reviews. Unfortunately the attendance was low. By popular demand this seminar is scheduled again for April 2008

The purpose of knowing where you are is two fold. All field trip leaders and collectors need to know where they are and where they should not be. While we may collect on public land – BLM and Forest Service land – we cannot collect on private or claimed land without permission. It is the responsibility of the collector to know the status of the land on which they intend to collect. It is the responsibility of the field trip leader to know the status of the land and determine boundaries before people are led to an area with private land and/or claims.

This seminar addresses what you need to know about determining land status, choosing and reading maps, GPS and other tools.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg CA. An announcement flier with details and directions will be issued in early January. This seminar is for field trip leaders, and all rockhounds that enjoy collecting; all members and guests are

welcome.

Mark your calendar now, watch for the announcement flier and plan to attend this informative seminar.

ROCK HOUND RECEIPES

I got this recipe from the dental office during my last teeth cleaning!.

Rock Hound Toffee

Ingredients

2 cups butter
2 cups white sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup finely chopped almonds

In a large heavy bottomed saucepan, combine the butter, sugar and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring until the butter is melted. Allow the mixture to come to a boil, and cook until the mixture becomes a dark amber color toffee, and the temperature has reached 285 degrees F (137 degrees C). Stir occasionally.

While the toffee is cooking, cover a large baking sheet with parchment paper. As soon as the toffee reaches the proper temperature, pour it out onto the prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle the chocolate over the top, and let it set for a minute or two to soften. Spread the chocolate into a thin even layer once it is melted. Sprinkle the nuts over the chocolate, and press in slightly. Putting a plastic bag over your hand will minimize the mess.

Place the toffee in the refrigerator to chill until set, about 1 hour. Break into pieces, and store in an airtight container.

Submitted by Mary Hicks

This is a much faster way to make a favorite treat!

Microwave Rice Krispies Treats

Ingredients:

16 oz Marshmallows
4 Tablespoons Butter
8 Cups Rice Krispies
Non-stick Butter Spray

Place marshmallows in a 3 quart microwave safe bowl, slice up the butter and spread the pieces on top of the marshmallows. Melt the Marshmallows in the microwave until you can stir the melted butter and the marshmallows together. Add in Rice Krispies. Stir until cereal is completely and evenly coated. Spray a 9" by 13" Pyrex baking dish with the non-stick butter spray. Spoon the mixture into the banking dish. Spray a clean hand with the non-stick butter spray then press the cereal mixture firmly into the baking dish making it level. Cool in refrigerator and cut into squares.

Submitted by Bonnie Eichler

Treasurer's Notes

I just want to introduce myself, Barbara (Bobi) Brown, the CCM&GS 2008 Treasurer. I am currently working full time for Chevron Inc. Finance as an Accounting analyst. I am most curious about the earth, its makeup and its treasures. I enjoy beading, sewing, knitting, scrapbooking and traveling; also the opera and ballet.

At the holiday party, I received a stuffed dog, symbolizing the efforts I pledged to perform in my new role. I have named that dog, "DOLLAR," and he'll serve as a reminder

of the promise and my duty to keep the club financially sound.

Thank you all for your vote of confidence; it will be my pleasure to serve your needs and monitor the clubs investments and expenditures.

Barbara (Bobi) Brown, Treasurer

Barrie Bieler

Demonstrates Faceting at our 2007 Show.



Editor's Notes

I was a little nervous about taking on this position, but it wasn't as hard as I thought it might be. It's nice being "In the Know" a little early!

As far as my interests go, the range is far and wide. I love being outdoors and began

camping at 3 months old. My father called me "Pockets" when I was a kid because if I had them, they were crammed full of things, quite often rocks. (Sorry about the washing machine mom!) I'm into rock hounding, photography, beading, lost wax casting (I'm in Dan Howllet's class), carving, polishing and much more. I'm hoping to soon get my hands on a Gy-Roc Vibratory Polisher after doing some research on the different polishers available.

This summer I snorkled for the first time while looking for jade under the instruction of Ken Whitlatch. (I often got side-tracked following the baby fish in the creek; it is so beautiful to be able to see clearly under the water!)

I look forward to more rockhound trips and camping again with our club members next summer in the Ol' Timer's Section at Valley Springs. It's so nice to be part of the family!

Bonnie Eichler, Editor

E-mail articles and reports to Bonnie at BonnieE1969@sbcglobal.net

Remember the deadline is the 20th of each month.

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Newsletter can be read at <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

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ANN. M. BUFTON

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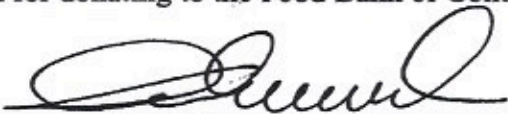
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Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Tel: 925-671-3466

(Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road)

Cross street Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Bowling Alley, Free Parking,

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

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

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Save Stamps
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DIABLO DIGGIN'S

Official Bulletin and Meeting Notice of the

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PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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