



Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

July 2021

### **President's Message**

I hope this finds all of you well and eager to get back to meeting together.

**NEW START TIME Please note we will be starting a half-hour earlier at 7 pm. Don't be late!**

It may seem as if we've been pretty stagnant during the Covid-19 closure, but I assure you our board and other members have been working behind the scenes to keep things going. Some notes:

\*Shortly after the close-down, our board began meeting on Zoom to ensure the business of the organization continued. We are a legal charity, and there are filings with the state and federal government that have to be maintained as well as dealing with property, membership, and other tasks.

\*We've had a number of club meetings on Zoom. While it's not perfect, it has been a way to connect and continue our educational activities. If you missed John Karachewski's lecture and amazing pictures of Mt. Diablo in our June meeting, you missed a fantastic program.

\*In 2020, the board, and especially Mike Hopkins, had done a lot of preparation for our annual show in hopes that it would happen. Sadly, it was not possible. However, we will be having our show this November 6-7. There's a lot of excitement around this and I know you'll want to be a part of it!

\*I've had the honor to be your president since mid-2019 and with an exception of a few months, your program chair for the last three years. I will be completing my term, but then I need to take some time off from this level of responsibility, so I will not be running for election to a board position for 2022. I'm looking forward to having people with fresh ideas and energy leading our club into the future. I expect to stay on as Immediate Past

President, an advisory position. If you're interested in stepping up, contact Karen Oliver, the chair of our nominating committee at [cockroach1454@gmail.com](mailto:cockroach1454@gmail.com)

There don't tend to be many times in life where a long break gives you a chance to come back to something you love with fresh eyes. Let's come together at this meeting and explore ways we can make our club more fun, educational, and experiential for everyone!

Best Wishes, Donna Albrecht, President



## GET READY FOR A SWEET TIME!

It's been a very long time since it was possible or feasible for us to meet in person. We will have our next in-person meeting on Monday, July 12 at a slightly earlier time, 7 pm at Centre Concord.

**CATCH UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS** - This meeting will be less formal than many. It's a time to catch up with one another, enjoy desserts, compare rocks, and open a dialog of what we want from our club as we come out of this long and often heart-tugging break.

So, we hope you will bring:

- **Your love and curiosity about all things mineral and rock!**
- **One or two rocks you found on a trip, purchased online, and/or rediscovered clearing out your rock pile to discuss or identify.**
- **DESSERT! We'll supply beverages, plates, etc. You bring a favorite dessert to share. My personal goal is to make a Geode Cake (wish me luck!). We'll have tables set up to make for easy eating and conversation.**
- **IDEAS** What, if anything, should we be looking at adjusting or changing in the way we work? All this time off has given everyone time to decide what about the club is most important to you. Let's talk about ways to make the club work the best it can for all our members!
- **CRAFT CONTEST** Bring the best of the cabochons, jewelry, faceting for the contest.
- **UPDATE** If you have new contact information, a new address, etc. This will be a good chance to make sure our records are up to date.
- **MISC.** I hope to have members available to help with those tasks like ordering nametags, paying dues (if you haven't already done it), and hopefully even ordering club vests!

- **MASK** We don't know if they will be required by Centre Concord for July 12. I know I'll be wearing one even though I've had my vaccine. I hope you will, too. Of course, they'll come off while we eat the yummy desserts!

**50 DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE AT JULY 12 MEETING!  
EVERYONE IS A WINNER!**

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**June 9 General Meeting Program**

John Karachewski presented a slide show of Mount Diablo including rock formations and flora. His pictures were wonderful and he is a great resource for all kinds of information about the mountain in our backyard.

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**New Officers need to be nominated by September 2021 for October 2021 election**

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Field Trips

Secretary

Treasurer

Federation Director

Other positions that need to be filled to continue a smooth running club:

\*Historian

\*Public Lands Advisory

\*Refreshments for General Meetings

A Nominating Committee was formed of Karen Oliver; Dick Pankey; and Carol Taraldson and is welcoming any interested members. Contact Karen at [Cockroach1454@gmail.com](mailto:Cockroach1454@gmail.com)

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**Upcoming Meetings-**

Board of Directors- August Board & Show Committee meeting! Terry and Joanne Caskey have invited us to their home on Saturday **August 7 at 3 pm.** (It looks like we can skip the board meeting in July.) They live at 5161 Myrtle Drive in Concord. The club will provide munchies.

General Meetings- 2nd Monday of the month, 7 pm at Centre Concord

## **CCM&GS Zoom Board Meeting, June 9, 2021 Minutes**

Called to order: 7:06pm

In attendance: Donna Albrecht, Terry Caskey, Vikki Hottop, Taylor Thompson, Mike Hopkins, Karen Oliver, Dick Pankey

### **Mike H. – Show Cost/Possible restrictions:**

Cost of renting Centre Concord up \$2,700 from 2019. Pass on some of this expense to dealers? \$120 per dealer? \$50 advertising fee added to contract?

One half of contacted vendors replied positively. No contracts or deposits taken yet. There is always a waiting list of vendors.

Restrictions still unknown for limits on space/people

Mike H. will have hours on rental contract modified.

Donna A. moves to have Mike H. sign the contract with Centre Concord for rental for the 2021 show and send a deposit. Dick P. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously

Terry C. and Mike H. will meet at the bank with Vikki to be added to bank account. Mike will get deposit check for Centre Concord then.

Centre Concord monthly rental fee increased for membership meetings to \$346.50 a month. We are adjusting the meeting hours which means adjusting rental hours to 6:30 – 9:30pm. Mike H. will inform Centre Concord of this change.

Karen O. moved to have Mike sign the yearly rental contract for Centre Concord monthly meetings. Taylor Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

### **Donna A. – Club News**

Nominating Committee needs to get started.

Nancy Hopkins (Mike's sister) has applied to become a member. She was a big help at the 2019 show working about 20 hours. She was unanimously approved for membership.

Johanna was contacted through the website with a estate donation of slab clocks, serpentine dishes and a \$200 donation. Donna will bring some items to September (?) meeting, and some will be used as door prizes at the show. Donna already sent a Thank You note.

April Board Meeting Minutes moved for approval by Terry C. Donna A. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimously approved

### **Vikki Hottop – Treasurer report**

Audit by Cheryl Morgan and Diana Skibieli – 2020 books are incomplete and incorrect. Auditors believe the club should purchase a Quick Books program for \$400. (cont.)

Discussion regarding Quick Books – Will it be transferable to next treasurer? Are there recurring fees? Can you send a readable report to President?

(cont.)

Vikki H. moved to have the club purchase Quick Books for \$399 with the ability to transfer to next treasurer. Mike H. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 in favor 2 abstain

**Taylor T. Membership** Membership Cards will go out next week

**Terry Caskey In person Membership meeting for July 12, 2021**

Publicity on Facebook and email?

Program or social event? Game? Activity? Refreshments? Pot luck desserts?

Agenda? Discuss Black Diamond Mine trip?

**Mike H. More Show business**

Mike H. and Donna A. will research the state permit to hold the raffle at the show.

Mike H. will double check show insurance is due Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>

We will not be hanging a show sign on the Lafayette overpass

100 postcards are ready to go. Anyone visiting another show is welcome to take some for distribution. Usually mailed in September need 36 cent stamps for mailing

Advertise on Claycord, Next Door, and other Club's websites

**Dick P. will be attending the Federation Zoom meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Donna A** – There will not be an Antioch Show this year.

Next Board meeting in August, Nominating Committee should have a slate.

**Move to adjourn Karen O. Taylor T. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously 8:13 pm.**

## 2021 CCMGS SHOW NEWS

### A CALL FOR THE SHOW PLANNING COMMITTEE

Anyone can act on this committee; we need 3 to 4 club members to act as LEADS and some additional members to help each of them on smaller tasks.

Show Chair: Mike Hopkins

Assistant show chair: \*\*

Layout, work with each LEAD:

### LEADS:

Advertising and promotion\*Mike Hopkins, unless someone wants t take this on

Venders and demonstrators \*

Auction / Raffle

Cases

Food service

Organizing volunteers to work the show, Set-up and tear-down

Other stuff: Badges, signs, banners

Please contact me if interested in helping to plan the 2021 show.

Michael Hopkins

[mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net](mailto:mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net)

(925) 570 – 4179

**Tailings**

Trivia question: How old is our show, has it run uninterrupted until last year?

If you know the answer, please Let me know.

Thank you!

Karen O.

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**July Birthdays**

**Happy Birthday** to the following members who have birthdays this month:

- Joanne Caskey 7/7
- Jane Holcomb 7/11
- Dave Kleesattel 7/14
- Don Henrich 7/27
- Michael Hopkins 7/29

**Happy Anniversary Dates:**

- Louise Gilley & Mark Blackman 7/5
- Dennis Freiburger & Patty Wintroath 7/8
- Michael & Jenelle Hopkins 7/30

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**CCM&GS T-Shirts-**

Where is yours? Club shirts are available in limited adult sizes. Cost \$15- \$17 plus postage.

Contact our designer - Bob Rigor [rrrigor@aol.com](mailto:rrrigor@aol.com)

**We had such a great time in July of 2016 that we decided to do it again this year.**

Announcing our Silver Pick Field Trip 3.0! There will be over 6 tons of rocks, a lot of equipment, and rock related items for sale.

Dick and Betty Pankey are hosting this Silver Pick Field Trip. What is a Silver Pick field trip? You don't need a rock hammer, shovel, gads, pick or any other tools, just bring your rock bag and CASH (aka your silver coins/Silver Pick) and come collect in our back yard. After over 30 years of field trips and collecting we are sharing our adventures. and memories. We did the digging, hauling, sorting and cleaning so that all you have to do is choose and pay. We have collected in many of the western states and in a few Midwest and Eastern states. We collected: obsidian at Davis Creek and Glass Butte; petrified wood in UT, WY, AZ, CA, NV, OR and WA; geodes and nodules at Wiley Wells, NM, NV, OR, UT, TN and IA; chalcedony roses and nodules at Round Mountain, NM; volcanics in northern CA; travertine in AZ and CA; jasper and agates from all over the place; bertrandite from UT; quartz crystals from AR, CA, and NM; Trona mineral specimens; and a whole lot more.

We will host this Silver Pick Field Trip on Friday, Saturday, Sunday (each weekend), Aug. 6th to 14th ; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Monday thru Thursday by appointment, at our home in Pittsburg, CA. Directions: 4310 Kingsly Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565 In Pittsburg take Buchanan Rd. to Suzanne (stoplight) turn south and follow signs with orange paper plates. Go south about 1/2 mile and turn right on to Kingsly Dr. Drive up the hill to 4310 Kingsly Dr.

We will be selling rough rocks by the crate, by the flat and by the piece; slabs by the piece and by the flat; minerals and specimens by the flat and by the piece; and garden rocks by the piece.

In addition to rocks and minerals there are: a 20" rock saw, rotary and vibratory tumblers, vibratory flat lap, miscellaneous equipment, tools, supplies, grit & polish, books, posters, findings, books and magazines, T-Shirts, stained glass and much, much more. (cont.)



Bring your pick-up truck and your Silver Pick and join us in August for two weekends of Rockhound fun. For more information contact [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com) or 925-439-7509.

Dick and Betty Pankey

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Attention, Field Trip Leaders and Bulletin Editors:

Please share with your members. Announce this Silver Pick field trip at your meetings and publish it in your newsletters. Copies of an announcement flyer are available at [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com). Give the flier to interested club members to get the word out early so people can start planning for this special field trip.



2021 Elected Officers:

**President:**

Donna Albrecht

[donna@lapidarywhisperer.com](mailto:donna@lapidarywhisperer.com)

**1stVicePresident/Programs:**

Vacant

**2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:**

Kelly Plumb

510 693 9075

**Secretary:**

Karen Oliver

925 876 3247

Cockroach1454@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Vikki Hotopp

[hotoppvikki@gmail.com](mailto:hotoppvikki@gmail.com)

**Federation Director:**

Dick Pankey

(925) 439-7509

[dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com)

2021 Appointed Officers:

**Annual Show Chair**

Mike Hopkins

[mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net](mailto:mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net)

**Display**

Cheryl Morgan

[Cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com](mailto:Cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com)

**Hospitality**

Kelly Plumb

kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

**Librarian**

Caryl Taraldson

lynn@taraldson.net

**Membership**

Taylor Thompson

925 808 5168

DreamBug1157@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Karen Oliver

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[Cockroach1454@gmail.com](mailto:Cockroach1454@gmail.com)

**Property**

Terry Caskey

tcaskey@comcast.net

**Publicity**

Mike Hopkins

**Refreshments**

**Sargent at Arms**

Naomi Morgan

**Webmaster**

Johanna Fenton

johfenton@yahoo.com

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Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

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Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society

Website:

[www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org](http://www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org)

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was formed in 1950 to encourage the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts, and field collections.

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General meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month on Zoom, stay connected for updates.

CCMGS

P.O. Box 842

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FIRST CLASS

Member of the American and California

Federation of Mineralogical Societies