

DIABLO



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MAY
2002

*Contra
Costa*
MINERAL + GEM SOC.
WALNUT CREEK, CA
CONCORD, CA

Diablo Diggins May 2002

INDEX

Page 1

Monthly Meeting
President's Message
Field Trips

Page 2

Education Report

Page 3

The Reading Room
Stone of the Month
Gem of the Month
Birthdays

Page 4

Anniversaries
April 8th Board Meeting

Page 5

April 12th General Meeting

Page 6

E-mail Humor
June Bulletin Deadline

Diablo Diggins
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
PO Box 4667
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Monthly Meeting

By Ann Matthews, Vice President of Programs

Dennis Shelley of Fairfield will be the speaker for May. Dennis has presented a program for us before. I don't know what the subject is but it will be a new topic for us. Bring a Friend.

Refreshments will be provided by Mary Jernigan, Sam & Mary Ellen Johnston, Harry Kanuck, Jonathan Kawano, Lee King, & Mary Ann King.



President's Message

By Joe Yarbrough, President

I regret that health problems in the Eggleston family have made it necessary for Duaine to resign the position of Club

Historian. Thanks to Duaine for all his interest and efforts.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday May 5th and of course, our club meeting is on Friday, May 9th. Please, anyone having or hearing of any new information on the condition of Betty Jerde in Tennessee, give us a call.

Thanks.



Field Trips

By Hazel Woolsey, Vice President of Field Trips

FIELD TRIPS - April, 2002

April 30 Coulterville, CA for mariposite, soapstone. Club Sponsor: El Dorado Co. Club. Contact: Jim and Barbara Terrill (530) 676-2375, rockit@directcon.net

May 3-4 Snyder's Ranch, Valley Springs (site of Pow Wow) for agate and opal. Leave at 9 a.m. Fee \$5. Sponsored by the Snyders. Contact: Snyder's Field Trip Booth at the main entrance of Pow Wow. First booth on the left, just inside the main entrance.

May 3,4,5 Pow Wow
at Snyders' Ranch, Valley
Springs, CA. COOP meeting
May 5th at 2 p.m.

May 18, 19 Crystal Pk.
/Peterson Pk.,
California/Nevada border, for
crystals. Club Sponsor:
American River Club.
Contact: Hugh Brady,
(916)961-6868
hbrady@jps.net

May 25-27 Fallon, NV
area for rhyolite, jasper,
possibly petrified wood. Club
Sponsor: Calaveras G&M
Club. Contact: Will Corey,
(209) 383-5037. Fossils for
Fun Club is planning some
side trips in this area.
Contact: Debbie Bunn, (916)
929-6665 fossilsff@aol.com



June 15 Cache Creek, CA
for jasper. Club Sponsor:
Roseville & Sutter Buttes.
Contact: Charlie Brown,
(916) 652-4240
cbbrown@wizwire.com

June 22, 23 Elko,
Nevada for fossils. Club
Sponsor: Fossils for Fun.
Contact: Debbie Bunn, (916)
929-6665 fossilsff@aol.com

June 30 Stifle Claim near
Georgetown, CA /Clean up,
collect brown grossular
garnet, green grossular garnet
and serpentine. Club
Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact: George
Rausch, (530) 626-1595

July 12,13,14 CFMS Show
in Placerville at the
Fairgrounds.

July 27 Gold panning, Club
Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact: Steve Elliot,
(530) 647-9641

Aug 17 Aug. 18 backup date
Garnet Hill, CA. for garnets.
Club Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact: Fred Ott,
(530) 677-8440,
fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com

Aug 23-25 Virgin
Valley/Badger Flat, NV for
opal (fee dig) and petrified
wood. Club sponsor: El
Dorado Co. Club. Contact
Fred Ott, (530)677-8440,
fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com

Aug 31-Sept 2 Cedarville,
CA for petrified wood, agate,
obsidian. Club Sponsor:
Fossils for Fun. Contact
Debbie Bunn, (916) 929-
6665, fossilsff@aol.com

Sept 7, 8 Kettleman Hills, CA
for fossils. Club Sponsor: El
Dorado Co. Club & Fossils
for Fun. Contact: Debbie
Bunn, (916) 929-6665
fossilsff@aol.com

Sept 13-15 Broken
Hills, Middlegate, NV for
opalized wood, fluorite. Club
Sponsor: Carmichael Club.
Contact: Marlin Stewart,
(916) 781-8703
mwlstewart@yahoo.com

Sep 21, 22 Ludwig,
NV for copper related
minerals/crystals. Club
Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club/ Contact: Steve
Roberts, (503) 644-8109,
sands820@hotmail.com or
Barbara Terrill (530) 676-
2375, rockit@directcon.net

Oct 11-13 Searles
Lake/Trona, CA for lake
minerals/crystals. Club
Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact: Fred Ott,
(530) 677-8440,
fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com

Oct 19 Goat Mt. near
Stonyford Dam, west of
Maxwell for moss agate.
Club Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact Merryan
O'Neil (530) 622-4229
moneill@directcon.net

Oct. 20 Black Butte
Reservoir, CA (near Orland)
for colorful jasper, petrified
wood, some agate. Club
Sponsor: El Dorado Co.
Club. Contact Merryan
O'Neil (530) 622-4229
moneill@directcon.net



Education Report

*By Dick Pankey,
Education Chair*

Connie Klein will
teach us the fundamentals of
glass fusing to make fused
dichroic glass jewelry.

SPECIAL

NOTICE!! The class
will be held at her home at
1885 3/4 Farm Bureau Rd. in
Concord on Wednesday
evenings, May 15th and 22nd
at 7:00 PM. Class size is
limited to 8 people and
preference will be given to

first timers. This class is full. Tools and materials will be provided, but please bring the following if you have them: glass cutter, Sharpie pen, scissors, and a cork-backed ruler. This class is very popular and filled up fast. Connie has offered to teach this class again in the fall if there is enough interest.

A BIG THANK

YOU to Jim High for his class on silver jewelry fabrication. This was a very big and popular class – 17 people attended. Many people brought their finished pendant with a faceted stone to display at the meeting. We always enjoy seeing the class projects at Show-N-Tell. The techniques and procedure that Jim taught require only simple, fairly inexpensive tools and this type of jewelry fabrication could be done at home.

Mary Ann King will repeat her Project Night class in June so that the “slow” folks can finish their project and so more people can learn and make this interesting and attractive seed bead and stone point pendant. Sign-up starts at the May meeting.

For July, Glen Mackenzie will give another one of his fine classes on Wire Art Jewelry. Sign-up starts at the June meeting.

A reminder to old and new members: If you sign-up for a class please attend. If you can't attend be sure to call the instructor (or me) so that an alternate can take your place. When you are a “NO SHOW” you deprive one of our other members the

opportunity for a class and learning experience.

DON'T BE A “NO SHOW”!!



The Reading Room

*By Marlow Hicks,
Librarian*

Some friends of my daughter Mary just returned from Costa Rica. Mary says that when she was a visitor of this interesting country, she got to watch nighttime lava flows from the view of her hotel room.

Do you find volcanoes interesting? Check out this book that Mary purchased in Costa Rica in 1998. Costa Rica, Land of VOLCANOES by Guillermo Alvarado, Gallo Pinto Press.



Stone of the Month

By Douglas Rue

There was one entry in the Novice Class, a handsome

Brazilian Agate by Dick Dennis.

Items of interest were provided by Jim High, with an array of silver work necklaces created in his Silverwork Class. Also, Jim High shared an example of soapstone carving.

Gem of the Month

Gem of the Month is Emerald. There is a wonderful display of emeralds in Key West, Florida. The emeralds are retrieved from sunken ships. Many a fortune was lost on the reefy bottom of the Caribbean.



Birthdays

Mario Piassa	May 3
Ann Matthews	May 4
Joe Zehrunge	May 7
Joe Yarbrough	May 12
Dick Pankey	May 19
Elfie Pingree	May 21
Don Tompkins	May 22
Connie Klein	May 26
Thomas Rouze	May 26



Anniversaries

Mark Herrenkohl May 5

Mary Crenshaw May 28



April 8th Board Meeting

*By Sharon Neuhauser,
Secretary*

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm at Joe Yarbrough's home.

Present: Bob Pevahouse, Mary Ann King, Glen Hubbard, Marlow Hicks, Connie Klein, Betty and Dick Pankey, Jim and Mary Bufton, Ann and Matt Matthews and Hazel and Sam Woolsey.

President Yarbrough read a letter from a Mrs.

Dockstater who wanted to advertise her sale of all jewelry, machines, tools, findings, etc., from her father's estate. Anyone interested could contact her.

Rock and Gem magazine mailed a discount which was not as good a deal as we received at the yearly gem show. The introductory offer would return \$6.00 on each

subscription to the club. Joe will announce this at the General Meeting to see how many people would take advantage of this offer.

Mary Bufton asked anyone who sees or hears an advertisement for our club on T.V., radio or in a paper or magazine to please let her know where you saw it.

Jim Bufton had new members to vote on, the committee made a motion to approve these.

Ann Matthews said that Jessie Fisher will be presenting a program on "Mining Adventures of England" at our April General Meeting. Ann discussed a night of sharing, favorite items of interest or rock trips, stories etc. Programs for the coming 6 months were discussed.

Discussed the need for a VCR.

Hazel Woolsey thanked everyone who helped at the North Bay Field Trip meeting. Other field trips were discussed.

President Joe said our October meeting date will be changed. Details later.

Sam Woolsey said 12 dealers had paid, 6 still need to be paid. Things are running smoothly for the November Show. Still need help!

Glen Hubbard discussed property insurance and inventory done on items in Connie Klein's shed. Connie said the lights need fixing as soon as weather gets better. A work crew will be

needed to finish property at Klein's.

Betty Pankey said we will hold a picnic probably at Baldwin Park later this year.

Dick Pankey brought up the fact that it will be bead stringing instead of soap stone carving as I stated in the last newsletter. Dick announced classes for May and June.

Federation Chair Bob Pevahouse told us of Betty Jerde's open heart surgery on or around March 29th, we all wish you a speedy recovery! Bob reminded us to have fun and bring family to the California Federation Show in July at Placerville. Camp Paradise will hold 2 separate weeks of fun this year. September 8 to the 13th and September 15 to the 21st. Price \$200-220 for a fun week, room and board, outings, gold panning, movies, cab working, wire wrapping, bead stringing, and learning our fun hobby from the pros.

It was noted in the March Bulletin that the wrong Board Meeting date of April 4th was stated. Oops! Sorry.

Duaine Eggleston has retired as Historian due to poor health in the family. New member Ron Fray has offered to take this job. Welcome aboard!

Treasurer Connie Klein read the budget for 2001. It was discussed, seconded and approved. The 2002 budget was initiated with everyone's input. President Joe asked that all checks and bills be turned in. Connie discussed

the banks procedures for signatures and **President Joe** stated it would be our club policy to continue with 2 signatures on checks.

Meeting adjourned around 9:10 pm with refreshments following.



April 12th, General Meeting

*By Sharon Neushauser,
Secretary*

President Joe Yarbrough started the meeting at 7:30 pm with "Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, and those that do not feel they fit in." All stated pledge of allegiance.

Betty Pankey announced guests, birthdays, and anniversaries. **Charlie and Brownie Cameron** have been married 55 years. Beautiful!

A Get Well card was sent to **Betty Jerde**, in Memphis, Tenn. She had open heart surgery recently and we hear she is doing well.

Al Schleif collected for missing badges.

Jessie Fisher our guest speaker for the evening won the rock for guest. And ticket #265 won the member

rock. Sorry I didn't get your name.

President Joe stated our Treasurer's report at the Board Meeting was favorable! We've got \$ in the bank kids!

Hazel Woolsey reported on upcoming field trips. Always check the side table before or after the meeting for trip information. Ask **Hazel** any questions about a trip. June 1st is a Co-Op trip with rock auction and speakers. Again, July 12-14th is the California Federation CFMS Show in Placerville, CA. July 27 is gold panning and August 17 is a trip to Garnet Hill.

Dick Pankey reminded us of **Snyders Pow Wow** May 3, 4, and 5. Old Timers site will camp with Antioch and North Bay groups and have a Pot Luck Dinner and Auction. If you come for the day or the weekend, offer an hour of your time to direct traffic. It is a FUN way to greet people, see a few friends, and earn \$ for our group. Also, bring a HAT, it's usually hot! But be prepared for rain also, as that does happen on occasion! Mud Puddles and All. If you've been there and done that, you'll know what I mean.

Betty Pankey thanked all who attended our Spring Outing to "Sweet Tomatoes," it was a great success. A Fall Picnic will be expanded on later.

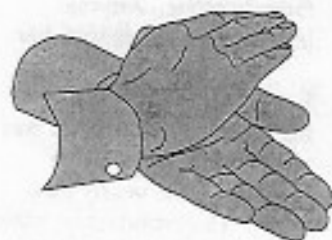
Jim Bufton announced new members. **Bill McKay, Mario Piazza and H.E. Neilson.** And renewals for **Ron & Leslie Fray and Harold & Barrie Schnoor.**

Mary Bufton said there will be announcements fo our club show in papaers, magazines and on readio and TV. Just let her know when you hear or see one.

Sam Woolsey elaborated oin the progress in planning our November Show, the wonderful desserts served at **Ann Mathews** home on meeting nights. **Sam** has Show Fliers ready for us to mount on car windows, in front of houses, and small fliers to give everyone, dentist, grocerers, schools, etc. Be prepared to join a committee and help make \$ for our yearly show and provide a wonderful educational experience for attendees. It is FUN really!!

Marlow Hicks our Librarian has lots of free books and videos to check out. Any member can check out these great materials. He has a list of all items available so check it out.

Lee King announced lots of silver pendants on the table made at the Jewelry class, with instructor **Jim High** giving us instructions on how to make this month's project. Also, there was a lovely soapstone carving display. Thank you **Coffee Mugs** were given for classes presented by **Mary Ann King, Bob Pevahouse and Jim High--** All received a big hand.





Ophelia Hicks will present a Bead Stringing class this month. In May Connie Klein will teach a Glass Bead class in her home, room for only 6 or 8 so sign up now!

Mary Hicks gave us her e-mail address and deadline for newsletter-April 18th. She is moving so her phone number is not correct in the rooster. Her address is 2418 Larkin Court, Antioch. 94509. To e-mail articles for the Bulletin until further notice are to be sent to mhicks@ebmud.com.



Mary will let us know when she has moved in to her new digs.

Ann Matthews introduced Jessie Fisher and our month's program titled "Mining in Great Britain."

June to September is when Jessie and partners travel 8,000 miles from home to England where they have purchased rights to an old mine.

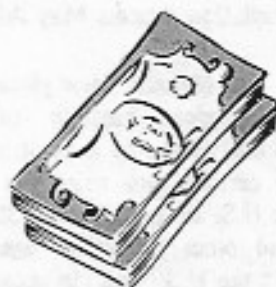
For approximately 3 years they have been finding many nice mineral specimens. Slides and maps of the property owned by the Church of England, pictured climbing ladders to muddy small holes where hard work produces some beautiful specimens, some of which Mr. Fisher sold this night. A short question and answer session was held and Mr. Fisher stated his group spent approximately \$66,000 per year on this project.

Do hope you are seeing a good profit for all your hard work.

President Joe Yarbrough mentioned that Duaine Eggleston was retiring his position as Historian and that Roy Gray would be taking over this position. THANKS to Roy!

President Joe read the letter from the woman who sent a flier wanted to know if we would purchase her rock equipment, tools, and rocks and jewelry.

Also a letter from the Rock & Gem Magazine was introduced. President asked how many of us already subscribe to R&G. If enough people subscribe,



\$6 per subscription would be returned to our club.

The Audit Committee was thanked and dismissed.

The motion was stated and seconded and we adjourned at 8:45 pm with refreshments following.

E-Mail Humor

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?



**June Bulletin
due date is May
18th.**

GIA News: Research by GIA Finds U.S. Postal Service Irradiation Process May Affect Some Gem Materials

(Source: www.gia.edu/news/index.cfm)

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) announced the results of a preliminary study on the impact on certain gem materials of the irradiation process the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is using to kill anthrax and other biological agents that might be contained in the U.S. mail. In most cases, the process produced dramatic changes in the color of the gem materials.

The testing was conducted with the cooperation of SureBeam, which makes the irradiation equipment the USPS is using. SureBeam is a subsidiary of Titan Corporation, of San Diego. The equipment is a type of linear accelerator that creates a beam of high-energy electrons typically used to kill the microorganisms that can contaminate food.

Coincidentally, this is the same type of ionizing radiation that is often used intentionally to change the color of some gem materials. As a result, the colors of a number of gem materials, among them pearls, sapphire, quartz, kunzite, and topaz, can be sharply altered by the irradiation method the USPS is using, the research showed. For example, the white cultured pearls turned gray, the pale blue sapphires turned deep orange, and the pink kunzites turned green. On the other hand, the diamonds in the study did not show any perceptible color change.

GIA undertook the research as part of its role of serving the gem and jewelry industry and protecting the public interest, according to the Institute's President, William E. Boyajian. "GIA strives to remain on top of issues that can affect the gem and jewelry industry and the public. When we became aware of the U.S. Postal Service's proposed 'sanitization' of mail using ionizing radiation, we immediately began investigating the potential impact of this process on gems shipped through the USPS."

Boyajian added, "The industry uses the U.S. mail heavily to ship gems and jewelry nationwide, so the potential impact of irradiation on high volumes of mail is obviously a major concern, and we believed it was important to conduct this research."

Shane McClure, director of West Coast Identification Services for the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory, who led much of the research study, noted, "Our information is that the Postal Service is currently scanning only a small amount of mail using this process, and this has been limited to letters and other flat mail. Nonetheless, we think the results of our research can help the jewelry industry and the public avoid potentially negative effects on their gem materials by choosing packaging that would be less likely to undergo irradiation."

McClure added, "The preliminary test results also showed that gold jewelry would not retain any residual radioactivity from the irradiation process. GIA plans to continue its research, and further results will be reported when available."

A detailed report of the actual GIA research, with before-and-after photos, can be seen at the GIA Web site at www.gia.edu/gandg/special-issue-112701.cfm. The following table, from the above-referenced report, shows the results of the testing done by the GIA:

GEM MATERIAL	BEFORE	AFTER
diamond	near colorless	near colorless - no change
diamond	gray	gray - no change
kunzite	pink	green
morganite	brownish or orangey-pink	yellow
cultured pearl, saltwater	white	gray
cultured pearl, freshwater	white	gray
quartz	colorless	brown
quartz	yellow	yellowish-orange
sapphire	light blue	yellowish-orange
topaz	colorless	brown
tourmaline	near colorless	light pink
tourmaline	light pink	darker pink
tourmaline	bi-colored green and pink	green - no change pink - darker
zircon	colorless	pinkish
brown zircon	yellow	yellowish brown
zircon	green (greenish)	yellowish brown

Board and Committee Members 2002

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Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 PM

**First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, Downtown Concord
(Corner of Salvio & Colfax)**

Free parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio

Visitors are Welcome! Bring a Friend.

Membership fees: Initiation \$5; Regular member \$10; Associate \$5; Junior \$1.

Mary Jemigan
1031 Pierce St
Fairfield, CA 94533

Time Value

Save Stamp
for CCMGS



FIRST CLASS



"Diablo Diggins" Editor
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Soc.
PO Box 4667
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

"DIABLO DIGGINS"

Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

A non-profit organization who's members enjoy rockhounding and lapidary arts



Member of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies