Diablo Diggins

September 2024



Summer is over and we have so many wonderful events and some very exciting news to share with you. Please excuse the simple format, this newsletter was done in great haste. It is full of information you'll really be glad you know!

ANNUAL AUCTION = GREAT DEALS!

September Meeting

We will be accepting **Cards**, cash and checks.

We are having our annual auction next Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, at the Clayton Library. We will be serving Ice Cream and great deals, but . . . we need your help. We need donations of stone, rough, worked or anywhere in between, lapidary equipment, and other lapidary items.

We will be in Hoyer Hall (enter the library front door, go to your left instead of going into the library itself) starting at 4 pm to set up and accept your donations. If you know what they are please tell us. The auction will start *promptly* at 7. We

have invited the public to this sale and Ice Cream Social, so bring neighbors and friends. We will have a few rules to keep things orderly; they are as follows . . .

- ➤ All Sales final, no returns
- ➤ No warranties are being made
- ➤ All merchandise must be paid for and collected with a receipt. All purchases not paid for or claimed revert to club ownership.
- ➤ All bids in \$1 increments, Opening bids at \$2
- ➤ Ice cream will be served after the auction
- The fee for a returned check is double its original value.
- Any donations not sold at the auction will be retained by the society for future use.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your president for the past two years, I have truly blessed with working with some very fine people. What it comes down to is that this club cannot function without dedicated people working every day to make this club better. I thank you.

Next month I will be accepting nominations for our Rockhound of The Year award, please let me know if you have someone in mind to nominate.

Rob Savre and his show committee have been working hard to make this the best show in recent memory. The Committee sans Rob met on Thursday, here are some of the highlights:

- We have three quarters of the tables under contract. And a long waiting list.
- We have an exciting activity room line up planned with a new 'ROCK MONSTER" game [looks like real fun], rock painting, THE Wheel, and a treasure hunt, sand box.
- Nearly all our demonstrators and presenters are booked.
- Our education room will have a fluorescent display, a revised and updated 'EARTH ROCKS' display, and a mineral ID demonstration area. Come check out the microscope camera with a big screen to see what you are missing by going micro.
- We will have a fantastic show this year, but every club member is expected to help during the show and at setup/tear down. This is our one-time-a-year opportunity to show the community why "WE DIG ROCKS".

Behind the scenes:

Ashley R. has been working extremely hard on preparations for the upcoming show, she has single-handedly upgraded our Facebook pages and created our new super website [I need to get you a cape], scales the tallest rocky precipice in a single bound, and all that.

Primo has been working on organizing our storage units saving us many \$ over the next year.

Cheryl and Barbara are everywhere and into everything thing, thank you for your time.

And Donna, always there as my rock.

Next year I am stepping down as President. We are now accepting nominations for 2025 officers. It is not easy to put yourself out there, that is why I feel so grateful to those who have stepped up this year. Who will answer the call?

Mike Hopkins

President

CASE RESERVATIONS FOR OUR SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The cases that visitors to our show see give them an idea of how fascinating and diverse our hobby can be. Whether a case is educational, a display of craft, or even humorous, it entices visitors to see rocks in new and fascinating ways.

Members and friends of CCM&GS are invited to participate in this aspect of the show. Whether you are a novice or an experienced hand, creating a case filler is a wonderful way to share your interests.

Please fill in the attached form and send it to me asap so I can start organizing the layout in hopes of giving our guests the best possible experience. The form does ask if you have a case. This is primarily if you have a case or display that does not work with our standard cases. Let me know what space, etc. you will need to best enhance your display.

The form gives you several ways to respond. I tend to prefer email, donna@albrechts.com, but if that is a problem, please use one of the other ways. Also, if you know someone with a different club who has a wonderful case they may be willing to bring, let me know. Questions? Just ask!

Donna Albrecht

Case Chair

[Attached below is the form]

[President commit-consider putting up a case at this year's show, we have all the resources to help you, and you can check out a case now to practice and setup prior to the show]

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Annual Show November 2 & 3, 2024 Centre Concord, Concord CA 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Ca 94521

Exhibitor Application

(one application per case)

NAME:					
ADDRESS:					
PHONE:	EMAIL:				
EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION:					
I will use my own Case	Size: Width	Height:	Depth:		
I Need to Borrow a Club Ca	se:				
back are finished in light-co	olored wood. Two 100- R OTHER ALTERATION The your name and you	watt floods illuminat S ARE TO BE MADE 1 r society's name in y	22-3/4" x 22 ¼". The case sides and the from the top. NO TAPE, STAPLES, TO THE CASE OR LIGHTING. To and we encourage you to r case.		
Exhibitor's Signature:					
Please complete all informa	ation on the entry form	n and return a copy t	o the exhibit chairman for		
acceptance and acknowled	gment. Return to Do	nna Albrecht 46	03 Lincoln, Concord, CA or		
scan and send to do	nna@albrechts.co	<mark>om</mark> or snap a pic	ture and send to 925		
586.6292. If your entry i	s not acknowledged w	ithin 14 days, please	contact the exhibit chairman. Case		
set up is after 1:00 pm on F	riday, November 1. A	II cases must be set ι	ıp by 8:00 pm on Friday or by		
,		•	d before Sunday's close of the		
			ow. For additional information		
please contact Donna Albre	echt at 4603 Lincoln, C	oncord, CA, 1 925 82	26-6861 or donna@albrechts.com		

YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS From Kelly Plumb, Federation Director

It's getting to be that time of year again. Time to start thinking about officers for next year. The AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) will be holding their convention in Oklahoma City, where they will be announcing the 2025 slate of officers. The CFMS (California Federation of Mineralogical Societies) will be holding our convention from November 8th through the 10th in Visalia California.

I highly recommend that everyone check out the CFMS website, as they have a field trip to various locations outside of Reno NV announced in their current (September) newsletter. All the details are there, which are normally in a password-protected Field Trip section. There is also information on all of the contests we can enter including the Junior Achievement Award, Newsletter, Yearbook and Rockhound of the Year. I'd like to tell you about just one of them which would be easy for us to do.

Rockhound of the Year – We would nominate a member of our society (i.e.) a single adult, a couple and/or a junior who may be nominated to be the Rockhound of the Year. A Junior Rockhound of the Year may be nominated concurrent with an adult and/or couple. Please complete the information on the form and it to: Chris Ward 17416 Stare St. Northridge CA 91325 Or email to chris ward678@yahoo.com. The form can be found on the CFMS website under Rockhound of the Year. I will also bring a few forms to our September meeting. One member or couple from the society/club can be recognized each year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Year for Recognition: Society/Club Name: Person or Couple: Members for how long? (approximately): Junior Member? Write an article on how this person/couple/junior member has helped your club. Service to the club could be being an officer, show chairman, bulletin editor, webmaster, help at the shop, instructor, junior program, educational speaker, hospitality at meetings (greeting new members and making them feel a part of the club), etc. If they have held many positions over the years, list several of them. If you have any questions, please call (818) 439-0217

I also want to remind all Club Members that I [WE] need pictures, articles news clippings or any records of anything rock-related that any club member has done

this year for our yearbook. Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society won awards and placed very well last year, but it will take a serious group effort to do the same or better this year. Not only have I not been able to be around much this year so I need more from each of you, but I have also been asked to work on the Reno club's yearbook and I can tell you that they are very organized and have a huge membership that contributes. [President Comment, we will work on the yearbook through committee, if you wish to be on the committee please contact Kelly or Barbara].

REMINDER Advertise the Show in as many Free locations as possible! · Local newspapers · Current events sections! · Local TV stations, · Community calendars! · Other Local Shows Advertise your shows in the Rock & Gem Magazine! www.rockngem.com/ show date-submissions/ Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online. [Pres. Single color flyer to hang in windows and ½ page handouts will be at the Monday meeting].

American Land Access

ALA, or American Land Access, is an organization dedicated to protecting public lands for public use. For us as Rockhounds, that means protecting our right to hunt on our traditional rockhounding sites, new sites as appropriate, and access to them. That can mean preventing the closure of the roads and trails leading to them as well as the areas themselves. You may be familiar with the Nevada rockhounding areas near Fallon which we will be losing to the military in the next few years. Public comment can help to prevent or mitigate this type of loss to other areas in the future.

We can help ALA protect our access in several ways. First is writing letters to or becoming acquainted with local public lands managers and making our opinions known. We are also strongly encouraged to provide ALA with site specific Field trip journals, showing where we rockhound, including the routes used to access them. Make sure as you travel to your rock hounding areas that you check to be sure that all of the road and trail signage you plan to send in is current and up to date We can do this as a club and as individuals. ALA uses this information when

writing comment letters supporting recreational rockhounding. It also shares with other clubs so they can also write in support of saving recreational rockhounding id those areas. The more people write, as clubs and as individuals the more attention is paid to our opinions. I can send out a sample letter but each letter must be individual and in our own words.

One current concern is the Mojave Trails recreation area. Please contact Gregor Losson at gregor.losson@amlands.org and the DDAC (desert District Advisory Council) at helpsave/BLM/DAC.

WEBMISTRESS REPORT

I am happy to finally share with you all our new website www.ccmgsclub.com and encourage you all to go check it out if you haven't already. It has officially been submitted for entry into the 2024 CFMS/AFMS Website Contest. There are many cool resources and features to see and explore, including a password-protected Members Only Area section. Here, CCMGS Members can learn about the latest exclusive news in our club, read through past editions of Diablo Diggins in the Newsletter Archive, plus more. I have made a 'How To Use Your Online Account' PDF guide to explain how to login and use the features. Please email me if you'd like a copy.

In this Members Only Area of our website, we will also be featuring a casual blog for members to author posts about different rock-related subjects. Donna A., the author of the online blog The Lapidary Whisperer, has graciously permitted us to reprint two of her articles in our blog to get things started. I invite you all to log in to your Member Account and check out these introductory blog posts at www.ccmgsclub.com/blog. By having blog posts on our site, we can show up in search engine results more often and grow awareness for our club. We are currently looking for members who are interested in authoring blog posts online for us about various topics. If you have any content ideas or would like to learn more about how to become a blog author for CCMGS, please reach out to me directly at contact@ccmgsclub.com. No writing experience or commitments are needed, and all ideas are welcome!

HAVE YOU WON A CLUB-RELATED CONTEST? Let's recognize your contributions and post it on our website! Send details to the Website Master via email.

SEND PHOTO SUBMISSIONS for our website's Gallery page to the Website Master at any time using the email below. Photos can be of any club-related activities, meetings, or past shows.

HAVE OLD NEWSLETTERS? We are always looking for past years' editions of Diablo Diggins to add to our online Newsletter Archive. If you have any, please email them to the Website Master or give any physical copies to the Secretary for digitalizing.

Thanks for reading,

Ashley Roderick Website Master 2024 contact@ccmgsclub.com

MEET ASHLEY RODERICK – OUR NEW WEB MAVEN AND PUBLICIST!

Hi everybody! My name is Ashley, I'm Barbara and Aaron Roderick's daughter. I'm fulfilling the current Webmaster position and Publicity Chair for the rest of the year. I'm looking forward to helping the club where I can with my marketing skills, which is what I do for a living. I graduated from Concord High in 2011 and then went to DVC, where I first took a geology class and lab to fulfill my earth science requirements, then went on to SFSU where I got

my bachelor's. I'm now at UNLV getting my MBA in marketing and entrepreneurship, where I currently reside with my two cats Zippy and Toby in Las Vegas. Some of my (current) favorite minerals and gemstones are: Citrine, Emerald, Pink Halite, Rhodonite, Turquoise, Lepidolite, and Pink and Green Tourmalines. I'd really like to visit Montana to go sapphire mining, and North Carolina for emeralds and rubies. There are some regional places in between where I live and back home in CA I'm also interested in rockhounding at, like the now limited once-a-year pink halite collection at Searles Lake and also the Benitoite Mine in Coalinga, CA. I'm excited to meet all my fellow club members at the show in November, see you all soon!

PUBLICITY CHAIR REPORT

Thank you for accepting me as your new Publicity Chair for the rest of the year. I look forward to doing what I know to help bring awareness and new members to our fun little club! And in the meantime, I hope to get to know you all and see what drives YOU as a member of our organization. I have jumped right into the thick of it since I started and have been working hard with our President to revive old ideas and bring new ones into light that I believe can help us accomplish our goals as a club. Since it is show season, that is the majority of where our publicity efforts are being expended. We've been able to mine over 2,000 points of contact information for very specific people and businesses we hope to target for attending our show, joining the club, holding a speaker program, or donating to our organization. Simultaneously, we have been able to revive our Yelp! Review pages and renovate our Facebook presence where we are doing heavy advertising of our show. We have also been working on doing a "cleanse" of the internet to update our new club website and contact information where needed. The publicity plan for this year's show season and beyond is well on its way to coming together!

I really look forward to the other publicity items we have been working on getting implemented for everyone to enjoy. One program we are looking to introduce is a Newsletter Advertisement Program where local rock-related businesses can purchase a limited number of advertising space in our monthly newsletter to help drive year-round revenue. While it may not add up to too much in the beginning, I

believe it could amount to something valuable for us down the road, just as many other affiliated clubs have found out for themselves. Another exciting program I am working on for our club members is an Exclusive Discount Program where local businesses can offer our club members a special offer or incentive to shop with them. These discounts will vary among the businesses and may be timesensitive. The details of these programs are still being worked out, and we can't wait to announce them as we begin to implement them in the near future. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about our club's publicity strategy OR you would like to join the Publicity Committee, please reach out to me directly at the email found below!

Review CCMGS On Yelp!: https://www.yelp.com/biz/contra-costa-mineral-and-gem-society-concord

Review Our Show On Yelp!: https://www.yelp.com/biz/contra-costa-mineral-and-gem-show-concord

Find CCMGS On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CCMGSClub

Join Our Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccmgsclub

RSVP on Facebook for Our Show:

https://www.facebook.com/share/jqsWp6aGQSmoX175/

Thanks for reading,

Ashley Roderick Publicity Chair 2024 publicity@ccmgsclub.com

REPORT FROM OUR CFMS DIRECTOR Kelly Plumb

Wow! The Antioch Lapidary Club, Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society and the Reno Gem and Mineral Society have a serious competition going on this year! I have been Historian for the Antioch Lapidary Club for too many years to count. Every year I put together a nice book of pictures, newsletters, and articles that we used to show people what our club does at our annual show. I thought I was doing a good job. Last year President Mike Hopkins of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society informed me that I was going to do a yearbook for that society, and it was to be entered in the California Federation of Mineral Societies competition. When I went online to figure out how to enter that yearbook in the competition, I discovered that I had set it up all wrong! After a week of serious rearranging, I sent off what I thought was a passable book. I did not send Antioch's book because it was needed for the show in February and would not be returned in time. This year I am going to make two copies so Antioch can be entered also.

Due to my partner's medical condition, I have spent the last eight months in Reno NV and have been attending the Reno club Meetings. Reno has a committee working on their yearbook and I would like to see Antioch and Contra Costa have committees also.

Since it would be unfair for me to favor one club over another, I am counting on you, the club members, to make these yearbooks great. Anyone can contribute a picture, flyer, news article, or anything that shows what we do. Just send them to me at kellyplumb900@yahoo.com with yearbook and the club's name (Antioch or CCM&GS) in the subject line. You can also text them to me at 510 693-9075. I am not the best at checking emails so it would also help if you call and leave me a phone message that I have a message or email. You can also mail pictures, flyers, thank you letters or anything related to what you do rock related, at Kelly Plumb PO box 5960 reno NV 89513. Anyone who would like to be on the yearbook committee for any one of the clubs please contact me and we will work out assignments. A few of you who know me well may be getting a call to arm. Soon.

The categories for the yearbook sections are:

1) Entry Form

- 2) Service and member engagement: this includes documenting meetings and talks, classes, workshops, junior groups, and activities, picnics and parties, our show, swap meet, field trips, Facebook, website, and online activities.
- 3) Publications and Publicity: Newsletters, club website, any publication of meetings, activities or show in outside media such as newspapers, or non-club websites.
- 4) Support for regional Federations, AFMS and other clubs: Attendance at Federation shows or being on a Federation committee.
- 5) Community Engagement: Talks, displays, demonstrations at schools, scouts, senior centers, libraries, local events, donations to community groups.

The biggest part of this will be documenting what we do! Document, document, document! We need pictures, flyers, newspaper articles, anything that documents us!

I just returned from the Federation Directors meeting in Ventura where I am Representing Antioch and the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society. I am pleased to announce that Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society's yearbook placed third at the All-American level and won a silver at the AFMS level. This was without many of the things listed in the categories above. There are many critiques to correct if we want to maintain or improve our standing next year. I would love nothing more than to see both clubs place (preferably first and second) for 2024. [President Comment, we will work on the yearbook through committee, if you wish to be on the committee, please contact Kelly or Barbara].

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

CCMGS- <u>Sunday</u>, <u>September 8th</u>.Blackhawk Museum. A guided tour of the World of Nature exhibit will start at 1 p.m. Admission is \$20 for Adults, \$15 for Seniors/Students/Veterans, and free for Children 6 and under. Please arrive early. Contact me if interested. <u>ccmgsfieldtrips@gmail.com</u>

CCMGS members are entitled to join any field trips the CO-OP offers. Please let the field trip leader know you plan to attend. Please take pictures, notes, and or recap of any trips you go on, even if it is not a CO-OP or CCMGS event. Please send recap: ccmgsfieldtrips@gmail.com

September 14th: Gabbs NV, Berlin-Ichthyosaur Nevada State Park Fossils For Fun Debbie Bunn (916)798-3362 Fossil bone excavation, ghost town tour. Tour fee is \$5 adults, kids under 12 free, vehicle entrance fee is \$10.

<u>September 21-22</u>: Crystal Peak CA/NV, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club LeRoy Salas (209) 292-7426 White quartz, possibly other varieties such as clear quartz, amethyst.

September 28-29: Lovelock NV, Roseville Rock Rollers - CFMS North, Gene Doyle, RRR Field Trip Leader, Text or leave message, Cell (408) 605-9457, Email eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net. Jim Barton, CFMS-N, Cell (916) 847-7321, Email geologistl@surewest.net. Hematite coated druzy Quartz, Magnetite, Emerald crystals. Sunday - petrified wood if the site is still producing, exploring wood and common opal sites.

October 12: The 12th Annual Rockin' Tailgate Rock Swap will be happening in Mariposa at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 12th from 10am - 5pm. Vendor space is \$10. [Pres. Always a great outing!]

October 18-21: Chinese Camp/Jamestown BLM Red Hills -Bagby Recreation Area- El Dorado M & G & Nevada Co. G & M Societies John Dolman, (530) 272-3752, john95670@yahoo.com. Mariposite, quartz crystals, and jade depending on lake level. [Pres. I would like to get a group together for this outing / daytrip]

REPORTS ON RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Royal Peacock Opal Mine



We headed to Virgin Valley, Nevada with one stop in Winnemucca for some ice and fuel; This was the last reasonable place to fuel the truck. We took NV-95 to NV-140 and reached the Denio Junction in about an hour and a half. The junction does have fuel and rooms for rent for those who don't want to camp. We traveled about an hour from the Junction to The Royal Peacock Opal Mine. The last 45 minutes were

on a washboard gravel road, but the 5th-wheel camper made it without problems. We were camped next to Frank and Kendall. They live in their RV full-time, mine rock and minerals, and sell all they find. They have a social media page under the handle That Camping Couple.

I met Aaron and Barbara Roderick at the Royal Peacock Opal Mine on Saturday morning to do bank digging. It was a bit overcast with a temp of 90 degrees F. A rock hammer and a little bucket or container of water are needed for bank digging. Any opals dug out of the bank should be put in water to prevent the opal from drying out too quickly and Fracturing. If a nice specimen is found, displaying it in a container like a water globe is recommended. If the specimen is left out it in the air, it could fracture into a bunch of pieces. I found a few pieces of brown opal, and I was calling it a root beer due to its color. I found some petrified wood and some Limb casts.

It rained overnight, and Sunday morning showed clear skies. We decided to do the tailings at Royal Peacock. The rain wet the tailing piles, and the full sun made picking out the shiny materials on the top easier. Various pieces of wood and glass were picked right off the surface. Aaron and Barbra found some nice stuff. The afternoon sun tested our dedication. I am glad the Rodericks brought a pop-up canopy.

Attendees: Barbra Roderick, Aaron Roderick, Mary Dougherty, Rudy Trautner

Davis Creek Obsidian

On Monday, Mary and I continued to the Sunrise Motel & RV Park in Cedarville. We set up camp and drove to the Ranger station at Alturas to get our collecting passes for Davis Creek before they closed. The first day of collecting obsidian was at Davis Creek's Rainbow Mine. The Ranger came to check our passes and explained some rockhounds found some lovely pieces of rainbow obsidian a few weeks ago, but they dug down 4 feet. I found the deepest hole and started digging with my Rock hammer. There was a lot of fist-shaped obsidian in that hole. Mary and I loaded up a bucket and headed to the Pink Lady Mine. At the Pink Lady, we realized we needed to strike the obsidian from several angles to check for play of color. We found some really lovely pieces showing purplish lavender colors.

On Wednesday, we spent the morning at Middle Fork. The obsidian we found had a lot of gray banding, and some pieces had a blue hue.

Attendees: N	Mary Dougherty &	Rudy Trautner	

Thanks for reading Diablo Diggins! We hope you found it interesting and that it inspires you to participate in ways you're familiar with and try out some new areas of interest. See you at the auction on September 9!!!

[Our new editor is Donna Albrecht.	Thank you taking	over with so	little prep time
You did a wonderful job].			

CCMGS Officers and Committee Chairs:

President

Michael Hopkins <u>President@ccmgsclub.com</u>

Vice President (Programs) & Treasurer

Cheryl Morgan <u>ccmgsprograms@gmail.com</u>

Vice President, (Field Trips)

Rudy Trautner <u>ccmgsfieldtrips@gmail.com</u>

Secretary / Membership

Barbara Roderick <u>secretary@ccmgsclub.com</u>

Federation Director

Kelly Plumb <u>ccmgsfeddirector@gmail.com</u>

NEW Publicity Chair

(Web master, Facebook)

Ashley Roderick <u>contact@ccmgsclub.com</u>

Show Chair

Rob Savre <u>show@ccmgsclub.com</u>

Education Cochairs Cheryl Morgan

Donna Albrecht

Property Chair:

Primo Facchini <u>ccmgsproperty@gmail.com</u>

NEW Newsletter Editor

Donna Albrecht <u>ccmgsnewsletters@gmail.com</u>

[PRESIDENT COMMENT- OFFICERS PLEASE USE ONLY THE CLUB EMAILS PROVIDED TO YOUR OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATION. If you need help contact Barbara and she can resend the email on how to set up and the code].