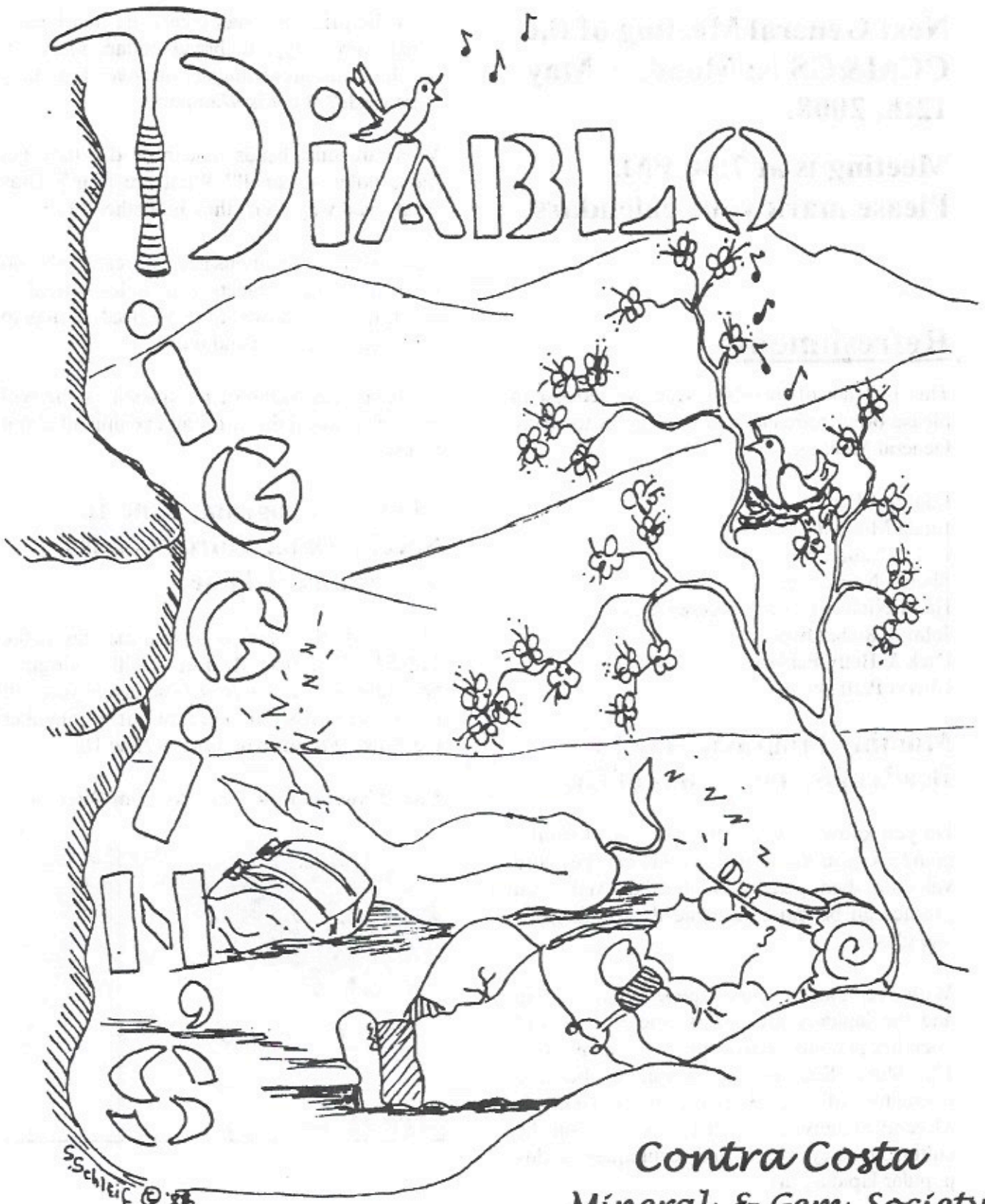


May 2008



S. Schleit © '08

Contra Costa
Mineral & Gem Society

Next General Meeting of the CCM&GS is: Monday, May 12th, 2008.

Meeting is at 7:30 PM.
Please mark your calendars.



Refreshments

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

Edgar Miller
Linda Minnich
Bill & Naomi Morgan
Sharon Neuhauser
Harry Nichandros & Therese Clark
John & Rana Owen
Dick & Betty Pankey
Cheryl Pattison

Monthly Program, May 12 Beads of Stone - Beads of Glass

Do you know how to tell a glass bead from a gem? Do you know glass beads can be more valuable than gem stone beads? And even plastic can be more valuable than both gems and glass?

With over sixteen years experience in beading and the lapidary arts, Mary Sue Bucher will open her knowledge to our club Monday, May 12. Mary Sue is the advanced beading instructor of the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society. She will be speaking on the culture, history, value, and techniques of this popular lapidary art.

How did primitive man create the first beads? What were Egyptian broad collars made of, and how did archeologists discover how they were made? What is Wampum?

What are dust beads, and how did they get those holes so small? What are Mardi Gras beads, and why aren't they like other beads?

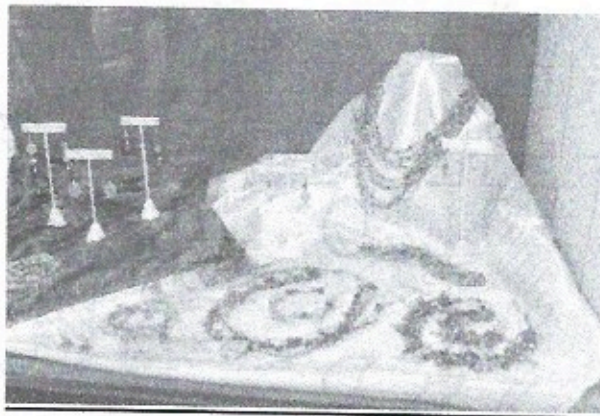
And finally, after thousands of years, why do these hard little objects with holes drilled in them, have the power to drive bead addicts to buy more, and more and more...

These are just some of the questions she will answer. Please join us for an evening all about beads.

Monthly Program, June 16 Special Date: Third Monday The Sands of Time

Please note the June 16 general meeting is the **THIRD Monday of June**. Bill Beiriger's presentation *The Sands of Time* is one you will not want to miss. So, don't miss it! Remember the **Third Monday in June** is June 16.

Harry Nichandros – VP, Program Director





Al Schleif, Sept. 1945 and Nov. 2001.

Al Schleif

"92 Years Young" Birthday

CCM&GS Club Members were honored to celebrate **Al Schleif's 92 Years Young Birthday** on April 16th, 2008 at his home in Concord. Many other Rockhound enthusiasts also dropped by to share in the birthday bash and story-telling.

In 1956, Al & Shirley Schleif found their permanent home with the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society. Al's personal commitment with the CCM&GS Club is reflected by the many Committee positions that he has held. As Al puts it, "I've been Club President twice, Fieldtrip Chairman twice and a little of everything else in-between." Other responsibilities included Display Chairman, Alternate Federation Director, Door Prizes and Insurance Committee, just to name a few. By utilizing his background with machinery, Al has also enjoyed rebuilding many motors for lapidary equipment and tumblers over the years.

Al has received several awards for his dedication to the Rockhound Hobby: **Honorary Lifetime Member of CCM&GS & Club Member of the Year Education Through Sharing Award** - presented by California Federation of Mineralogical Society.

Another prestigious award - In 1945, Al was awarded the Silver Star Medal from

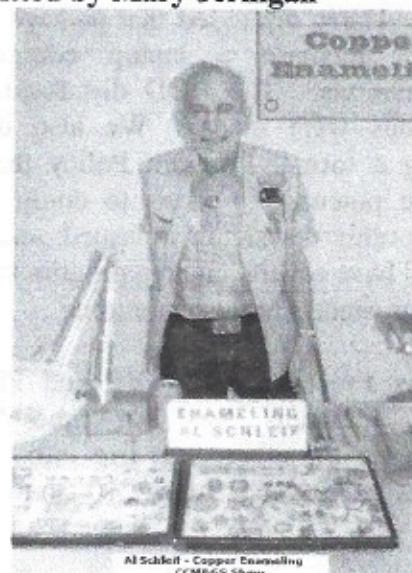
the United States of America. The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Al for his 'gallantry in action' in 1944, serving for the United States Army in the Philippine Islands. The award tells an incredible story about Sergeant Al Schleif's bravery operating as a flame thrower in the dense bamboo jungle. Amazingly, Al can still fit into his military uniform from 1945!

Best known as the **Teacher of Copper Enameling**, Al began his copper enameling creations in 1984. Sometime later, Al was joined by Bob Pevahouse, then Joe Yarbrough to build the forever memorable Copper Enameling Team. Al, Bob & Joe also became known as Adventurer Seekers exploring many Rockhound collecting sites such as Black Rock Desert in Nevada.

THANK YOU, AL for your many years of active participation in the CCM&GS Club as a Teacher, a Mentor and a much Endearred Friend.

Take a moment to talk to your favorite Rockhound - Adventure stories are waiting to be shared!

Submitted by Mary Jernigan



Al Schleif - Copper Enameling
CCM&GS Show

Board of Directors Meeting – April 6, 2008

The CCM&GS Board of Directors met on April 6, in Mary Hicks' home. The meeting began at 2:25 pm and was attended by **Mary Hicks, Dave & Kim Kleesattel, Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Terry Caskey, Sharon Neuhauser, Harry Nichandros, and Therese Clarke.** Mary started the meeting by asking for new or old business items to be added to the agenda. **Hazel Woolsey** made a motion to accept the Board of Directors' meeting minutes as presented in the Diablo Diggin's. **Terry Caskey** seconded the motion. Mary Hicks mentioned that the 2007 audit report has been prepared (and submitted a copy to the secretary). The motion to accept the meeting minutes passed.

Committee Reports:

Sam Woolsey, Show Chair and Property Chair. Sam said that **Joanne Caskey** will be in charge of demonstrators this year. Sam is also preparing to tumble rocks for the grab bags.

Harry Nichandros, 1st VP and Program Chair. Harry discussed that perhaps the club should purchase a laptop computer for presentations. The BOD discussed, but no decisions were made. We also discussed having a formal Program Policy that would require potential speakers to confirm before the monthly newsletter is issued, and that we should have several backup programs in case a speaker cancels at the last minute.

Dennis Freiburger, 2nd VP and Field Trip Chair. Dennis was not present. See newsletter for other field trip info. Antioch Annual rock swap is June 2, 10 am to 2 pm.

Barbara Brown, Treasurer. Barbara was not present, but submitted a report to Mary Hicks. The club's finances are in good shape. The club has not yet purchased a computer for the treasurer's use. **Terry Caskey** volunteered to purchase a computer this month (previously approved by the BOD).

Kim Kleesattel, Membership Chair. Kim presented membership applications for Luellen Pierce and Richard Kelly. **Sam Woolsey** made a motion to accept the new members, **Hazel Woolsey** seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Dick Pankey, Federation Director. Not Present. Just a reminder: The CFMS Show will be 27-29 June in Ventura.

Sharon Neuhauser, Ecology. No report, but Sharon is tracking the potential closure of California State Parks because of the lack of funding.

Mary Jernigan, Publicity. Not present. Mary looked into having an informational booth for the club at the Solano Flea Market. The flea market has about 7,000 attendees (that's where she heard about our club). The BOD decided to proceed with the Flea Market booth. See Mary if you would like to volunteer. She is also looking into other upcoming events where we can advertise about our club, and into making a club promotion button that says, "Ask Me About CCM&GS."

Terry Caskey, Display Chair. The monthly display is going well with many cab and items-of-interest entries. Voter turn out is still low.

Hazel Woolsey, Historian. Present but no report.

David Kleesattel, Secretary and Past President. Present but no report.

Rana Owen, Education, Arts & Crafts Chair. Not Present. Read the newsletter for upcoming classes. Next Month class is Silver Clay.

Bonnie Eichler, Newsletter Editor. Not present. Articles and information for May Newsletter is due by April 18.

Old Business: The 2007 financial audit report has been submitted.

New Business: Club correspondence was distributed by the Secretary.

The emailed version of the newsletter needs to be changed so members can print a hardcopy. Harry will make this format change.

Mary Hicks would like a committee to review the club's By-Laws and recommend changes as appropriate. Changes may include making the Education Chair and the Newsletter Editor voting members of the BOD.

We discussed purchasing an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) for the club (used for heart attack emergencies with CPR). Mary will check to see if the Centre Concord has an AED we could use in an emergency.

The Website committee met for the first time (March 31). The committee consists of **Barbara Brown** (Chair), **Harry Nichandros**, **Therese Clark**, **Mary Hicks**, **Mary Jernigan**, and **Terry Caskey**. The purpose of the website is to explain "who we are and what we do." Action items for this month – check out some web building programs and Harry will put our website back up for review. The next meeting is April 21 at 6:00 pm (at Chevron, contact Barbara Brown for details).

There will be no Board of Directors Meeting in May.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

David Kleesattel, Secretary

President's Message

Yep! May is just around the corner. While you are starting to plan summer and fall vacations, think about other activities you may have not thought of recently. Such as being active by attending meetings, social events or volunteering for the club.

Start by marking your calendar for the **Club's FLAG DAY BBQ & ROCK SWAP, Saturday, June 14th**. This is going to be a fun club social in the country at the Morgan's home on Morgan Territory Road, Clayton. Come for the social time, the BBQ, and/or to swap rocks and other items of interest with other members. Of course, Red, White, and Blue are colors of the day.

It is a good time to **plan to be in town during the 2008 Education Show and help out**. Mark these dates on your schedule-Friday (October 31) setup, Saturday and Sunday (November 1 and 2) for the show and Sunday tear down. **Sam Woolsey** is our Show Chair this year and when the activity sign up sheets come out, be ready to sign up. The show pays for the majority of the operating expenses of the club and allows the dues to be kept low for everyone. There is something for everyone to do.

Interested in the **Club's WEB SITE**. Contact Barbara Brown to find out when the committee is meeting. The committee is to determine the criteria, priority, and look of a permanent WEB SITE. The temporary site is access at (make this a Favorite for quick

access-if you don't know what this is, call me!)

<http://home.comcast.net/~contracostaminala ndgem/site/>

Put on a class for club members. Classes are fun, sharing your favorite aspect of the hobby with other club members makes a great day. You do not have to have the activity at your home if that does not work for you. Just let **Education Chair Rana Owen** know and she can find an alternative location for your activity.

It is time to **review the club's by-laws.** This process requires reading the by-laws and checking to make sure they are still in compliance with state requirements. This is an opportunity to consider changes in the by-laws for club operating rules too. Let me know if you wish to join me in doing this task.

It is never too soon to **join this year's nominating committee or getting ready to volunteer for one of the club officer or committee chairs for 2009.** If called to be on the nominating committee, please say yes. If contacted by the committee about filling a club position, say yes! It is a great way to get to know other members by getting involved and volunteering keeps down the time needed to get tasks completed.

Now, go out there and have fun rocking out!

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. To volunteer contact Mary Hicks at maryhicks@comcast.net or 779-0698.

CCM&GS MEMBERS SUMMER SOCIAL BBQ & ROCK SWAP

WHEN: FLAG DAY, Saturday, June 14th, 10 am to 3 pm.

WHERE: **Bill & Naomi Morgan's** home, 6040 Morgan Territory Road, Clayton.

WHY: Let's get together and celebrate the birth of our flag and our right to be rockhounds AND to have a rockhound good time swapping rocks and rock stories AND to enjoy a great BBQ (hamburgers/hot dogs/beverages, bring a side dish to share.). There will be prizes too!

HOW TO SIGN UP: Sign up sheet will be at the May 12th General Meeting or contact

Social Chair Naomi Morgan (925-672-2458) or, **President Mary Hicks** (925-779-0698) or maryhicks@comcast.net or <http://home.comcast.net/~contracostaminala ndgem/site/>

(We need a count to make sure there is enough food and refreshment for everyone.)

WHAT TO BRING: Family, friends, sun screen, shade hat, items of interest and/or rocks to swap, table for your rocks, a chair, some \$ to acquire a new find, a side dish to share.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: **NO PETS please!** This is for the safety of your pet and the safety of ranch stock.

COLOR OF THE DAY: RED, WHITE and BLUE, of course.



General Meeting Minutes, April 14th

The meeting was called to order by President **Mary Hicks** at 7:37 pm. Mary asked for people to please turn their cell phone to vibrate mode. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by **Dick Pankey**. Sergeant of Arms **Sherb Brown** collected 25¢ from members not wearing their name badges. Al Schleif is having a birthday party this week.

Hospitality Chair, **Naomi Morgan** announced Birthdays and Anniversaries, and introduced several visitors to our club meeting. Marty Wharton won the Member Door Prize (Purple sheen obsidian). There was a card for the family of John Snyder (of Snyder's Pow Wow) who recently passed away.

Terry Caskey, Display Chair, introduced the Items of interest. Terry announced that for this Month's competition there are many cabs to look at and vote for. Please vote for your favorite. Next month's Shape of the Month will be "Teardrop."

Dennis Freiburger, 2nd Vice President and Field Trip Chair, reminded us to read to newsletter to find out about many upcoming shows and trips (there is at least one-a-week for the next few months).

Rana Owen, Education Chair, requests ideas for classes you would like to have next year. Please see Rana about the monthly "Bead -In" for all you beaders. Next Bead -In night is April 26. See the newsletter for class schedule.

Mary Jernigan, Publicity Chair, let everybody know that the club plans to have an informational booth at the Solano Flea Market (Concord) on June 22 from 8:00 am to 3:30

pm. If you have any material to donate for the flea market, please contact Mary Jernigan.

Dick Pankey, Federation Director, reminded us about the upcoming Federation show (June 27-29). You can now sign up for Camp Paradise (a full week of lapidary classes). See the CFMS website for sign up forms and information. The Tri-federation field trip to Texas Springs is coming up. See the newsletter for details.

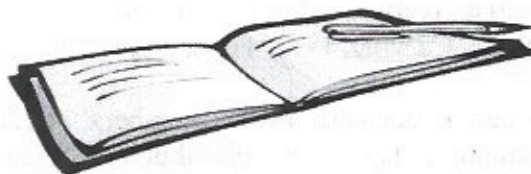
Kim Kleesattel, Membership Chair. Kim announced that we have 2 new members (see the membership report below for details).

Sam Woolsey, Show Chairman said that the show planning is coming along fine. **Joanne Caskey** will be in charge of the demonstrators this year.

Harry Nichandros, 1st Vice President and Program Chair introduced the program - Recreational prospecting in the 21st Century. The speakers, Eric and John, provided a lot of good information about how to get started prospecting for placer gold in California. They brought along examples of the equipment needed and many samples of gold they have found.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Refreshments were enjoyed after the program (thank you **Mary Bufton**) for organizing the treats). Members voted for their favorite cabs and faceted gems, and looked at the display items and material brought in by our speaker.

David Kleesattel, Secretary



May Birthdays

Ann Matthews	5/4
Pam Harris	5/7
Susan Yoshizaki	5/7
Kelly Plumb	5/8
Madison Teta	5/11
Joe Yarbrough	5/12
Patty Wintroath	5/13
Dick Pankey	5/19
Michele Roma	5/20
Elfie Pingree	5/21
Don Tompkins	5/22
Jorge Chinchilla	5/23
June Rosploch	5/24
Connie Klein	5/26
Thomas Rouze	5/26

May Anniversaries

Mary Selmi	5/10
Dick Canales	5/25

Membership Report

The club continues to grow by leaps and bounds. I am very pleased to announce 2 new members this month. Please join me in welcoming the following new members, and if you can help them with their interests, please let them know:

Luellen Pierce. Luellen is interested in Bead Stringing, Casting, Field Trips, and Fossils.

Richard Kelly. Richard is interested in Cabbing, Carving, Field Trips, and Geology.

The new roster with all the members' contact information has been distributed. Please

check your information and make sure it is correct. Let me know if I need to update any information.

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

SPEAKERS WANTED! CAN YOU HELP TEACHERS?

Would you like to share your enthusiasm and knowledge of rocks, minerals, fossils, and the earth sciences? Do you like kids? **Do you want to give back?** If so, we have a place for you, and **we need you.**

Teachers throughout Contra Costa County are anxious to have speakers – that's you - give a 30 to 60 minute presentation on the earth sciences. Teachers are not experts. They need help, and they have told me so. I have speaking requests now.

Never given a talk before? Don't know what to say? Still want to be a part of it all? I have curriculums for all grade levels, and can assist in preparation for any grade. Additionally, we will work together, share ideas and help each other.

Many members have asked me for a school program. Many teachers have asked me for speakers. Let's put it together.

It's time to help classroom teachers deliver a better curriculum. If you are interested in doing presentations in a classroom, please call or email me now. (925) 674-7055 or thereseclark@sprintmail.com

Submitted by Therese Clark

Thank you for your support!!!

I would like to thank all the members of the CCM&G Society for supporting me in my efforts to raise funds for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society's fight against cancer. I continue to train with Team in Training to prepare for the 129 mile bike ride through the Sierra Mountains that will take place on July 12th. My fundraising efforts are going well, however, I am still attempting to reach my fundraising goal. Please consider making a donation; At my web site www.active.com/donate/tntgsf/tntgsfnwhitla or call me at (925)228-6797. Anyone who knows someone who is a cancer victim, I would be honored to add their name to our team banner and ride in honor of them. Thank you again for all the support I have received from the CCM&G Society.

Submitted by Nancy Whitlatch

Future Meeting Program Calendar

May 12, 2008: *Beads of Stone – Beads of Glass* by Mary Sue Bucher. Mary Sue takes us through a fun filled and fascinating tour of beading: the history, culture, practice, and techniques. Learn why beaders can't stop buying all those little strings. And why some are more valuable than you thought!

June 16, 2008: *Sands of Time* by Bill Beiringer. **Change of date:** this meeting is on the *Third Monday* of June.

Harry Nichandros – VP, Programs

Field Trip Calendar

May 17, 18. Fairview, NV. To collect agate, geodes, and wonderstone. Hosted by Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society.

May 21 – 26. Texas Springs, NV. To collect pink agate limb cast, agate, and petrified wood. Hosted by Tri Federation.

June 6, 7. Virgin Valley, NV and Sunstone region, OR. To collect opal and sunstone. Hosted by El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society.

June 7, 8. Virgin Valley, NV. To collect opal. Co-hosted by Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Societies.

June 7 – 19. Series of four locations. (Fallon, NV; McDermitt, NV; Lake View, OR; Davis Creek, CA. To collect, rhyolite, agate, petrified wood, fossils, picture jasper rainbow obsidian, and sunstone. Hosted by Mother Lode Mineral Society.

June 14. Spider Mine (Red Bluff), CA. To collect rhodonite. Hosted by San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society.

June 16 – 19. Virgin Valley, NV. To collect opal. Hosted by Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Society.

For more information about these trips contact Dennis Freiburger.

Various Shows & Events

May 2 – 4. Bishop, CA. Eastern Sierra Rock & Gem Society Show. Bishop Fairgrounds.

May 2 – 4. Valley Springs, CA. Snyder's Pow Wow.

May 3, 4. Bakersfield, CA. Kern County Mineral Society Show. Kern County Fairgrounds. Ming Avenue and P Street.

May 10, 11. Reno, NV. Reno Gem & Mineral Society Show. Reno Livestock Event Center, Exhibits Hall, 1350 North Wells Avenue.

May 24, 25. Virgin Valley, NV. Fourth Annual Show. Opal Negra Mill site, Sage Brush Road.

June 27 - 29. Ventura, CA. California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show. Ventura County Fairgrounds.

July 2 - 6. Madras, OR. Fourth of July Pow Wow. Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

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

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center

My office holds an "Annual Baby Shower" to gather items to donate to the county hospital's Layette Program and to provide stuffed animals for children going into surgery. If anyone would like to bring items in for me to add to the donation, please bring them to the club meeting on Monday May 12th and I will make sure they are added to the collection for the hospital.

Per the volunteer coordinator at the county hospital following are suggestions for a gift:

Stuffed animals: no smaller than 10" and must be "hugable". All children going into surgery get presented with a stuffed animal and the hospital is always running low on their supply. Please no "already-been-hugged" stuffed animals. Any layette items. Basically anything you would give at a baby shower - mostly clothes.

Submitted by Bonnie Eichler



Some Surefire Signs You're a Rockhound:

Internet source: Bob's Rock Shop

Watching the movie Armageddon while New York is being destroyed, all you can think about is all the great specimens there would be if that really happened.

Your kids bring you a "pretty stone" they've found, and you contrive to steal it. And you know you've done it. Don't lie.

You are convinced that buried deep in some secret government archive is a document that will conclusively prove that the entire US Apollo space program was conceived and developed for the sole purpose of getting a moon rock for a certain Presidential rock collection... The truth is out there!

You care more about what happened to the diamond in the movie "Titanic" than the people.

Submitted by Joanne Caskey

Display Report

For the April meeting we had 2 competitions.

Remember, the winners are chosen by your vote. Please try to vote so we can have full club representation in the results. We had 25 votes this time.

Novice Cab: Martin Wharton was the only one to enter this competition. He entered three cabs. Rhodonite, banded jasper, and amethyst lace

Pro Cab: Four entries, Joe Yarbrough (Black Rock moss agate) (winner), Terry Caskey (palm wood), and Dave Kleesattel (chrysocolla),

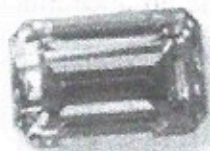
Shape of the Month: Three entries, Dave Kleesattel (Montana agate) (winner), Joe Yarbrough (Durango agate, Mexico), Barrie Bieler (zoisite agate-ruby)

Faceting: Barrie Bieler (colored cubic zirconia)

May Shape of the Month - Pear (teardrop)

The following persons displayed items of interest: Joe Yarbrough – Texas Springs agate, Rana Owens – Double strand necklace as an example for the class this month and the Bead In workshop had examples of wire wrapped stone by Joanne Caskey and Vivian Kuhl.

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

EVENT CALENDAR

May 12	May's GENERAL MEETING, Centre Concord, Madrone Room
May 17	Class-Precious Metal Clay
June 14	Social Event-Flag Day Rock Swap
June 16	June's GENERAL MEETING, Madrone Room (<i>third Monday</i>)
June 21	Class-Concho Pony Bead Necklace

Attention Beaders

It's a dream come true: a whole program devoted to Beading, Beading art, Beading History and Culture.

Yes, it's a one-hour presentation by the advanced beading instructor of SFG&MS, Mary Sue Bucher. See the article on the May 12 Monthly Program for more information.

Submitted by Joanne Caskey

Historian Requests Help

Please help populate the Historian records for the club **Rosters** and newsletter *Diablo Diggins*. The records have been reviewed and these items are needed to bring the archives up to 100%. Bring your items to a meeting or call me to make other arrangements.

Rosters for the years 1963, 1965, 1969, 1979, 1980, 1982, and 1991. Rosters are normally mailed to members in the bulletin, the actual month varies but may be in February through April bulletins.

Bulletins for 1960 (Feb), 1961 (Feb, July, Sept., Oct., Dec.), 1976 (July, Aug, Dec), 1977 (May), 1979 (April), 1985 (Nov), 1989 (April through December), 1991 (Jan through July), 1994 ((March), 1995 (April), 1996 (March, April), 1997 (March), 1998 (Nov), 1999 (Dec).

Thank you for your help in updating our club records.

Hazel Woolsey - Historian

SHOW CORNER

We are again assembling staff for the '08 show -- to be held November 1-2, with set-up on October 31st, Halloween, no less. The only change in staff to announce at this time is that **Joanne Caskey** has agreed to be in charge of recruiting and organizing our demonstrators. Thank you Joanne for relieving me of this responsibility!

Last fall, "**Matt**" **Matthews** and I re-caulked the seams on the roof of the club's trailer to prevent leakage and water damage to our tables and show cases. Matt and I checked them again last week, and they survived the rainy season just fine.

GRAB BAGS:

Catalina Wright and **Bonnie Eichler** are making grab bags from patterns Hazel provided. **Ann Matthews** currently has 250 bags for sewing. And I've started tumbling rocks for these bags as well. Last year, Hazel sold 350 bags, and took an order for more to deliver later. This year -- who knows?

Donations of polished rocks or other small trinkets for the grab bags will be appreciated. Bring them to the monthly meetings -- or call **Hazel Woolsey** and she will come to you to pick them up.

PROPERTY:

Speaking of tumbled rocks -- the club owns two 12 lb. barrel-type rock polishers. They run on frames and are driven by 1/4-horsepower electric motors. They are available for loan, on a first-come basis, to members who would like to tumble-polish their own rocks. (But not right now as I'm using them for grab bag rocks.)

The club also has some grits, and will provide a first load of crushed rocks and grits -- and guidance on using them -- to those who would share half of that output for the grab bags. But for the beginner, take note: the tumbler will run 24/7 for a month or more. To produce well-rounded and polished rocks, I run the tumbler 10-days to 2 weeks with the first (coarse) grit, then 1-week each for the next 3 (progressively finer) grits. And with these barrel-type tumblers, there's a lot of "slurry" to dispose of with each change of grit. (I, personally, use vibratory tumblers for the 3 progressively finer grits 'cause they are much faster, use far less grit, and produce much less slurry.)

Contact me by phone or at the monthly meeting if interested.

Sam Woolsey - Show/Property Chair

New & Improved Website Check it out!

★ Check out <http://www.ccmgs.org>. It's CCM&GS's website, and it's new and improved! Well, it's not really new, but it is improved. The website has been off-line while undergoing a complete restructuring, reorganization, and getting a face-lift to boot.

Now it emerges lean and clean. It has a simple straightforward structure with clear, attractive, and fast loading pages. Take a look. It's spiffy!

It has been designed to present CCM&GS to the public in an attractive, and compelling way: to tell the world who we are and what we do, and offer the club as a resource for rockhounds, educators, and kids.

The website is also designed to serve the club members, to be a resource of club materials and activities. And finally, it will be fun, with fun and informative articles for rockhounds and activities for kids.

I can use your help. I would like you all to take a look, tell me what you think, ideas for improvement, comments, corrections. Yes, even spelling mistrakes.

Please send me an email or give me a phone call, or while you are on-line simply click on "Comments to the Webmaster" at the bottom of any page.

Happy surfing...

Harry Nichandros – Webmaster



Dave Muster, Dick Pankey & Dennis Freiburger at the CFMS Field Trips – North Seminar.

Field Trips – North Seminar

The CFMS Field Trips–North Seminar was hosted by the Contra Costa M&GS on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Community Presbyterian Church, in Pittsburg, CA. We had a very good attendance of 26 people including 11 from CCM&GS. Registration began at 8:30 AM with coffee and muffins and the seminar started at 9:00. The seminar addressed what you need to know about determining land status, choosing and reading maps, GPS and digital maps, and responsibilities of field trip attendees. The three presenters were Dave Muster, Dennis Freiburger and me. Dave spoke on types of land, i.e. various government lands and private, and our rights and obligations on each; on finding visual markers and relating them to maps; and claims and checking claim status with BLM and County Assessors. Dennis spoke on Practical GPS and Digital Maps. He covered the why and how of using a GPS and what all it can be used for. Next he talked about digital maps with several examples. He concluded with how to couple a GPS with digital maps on a computer and what it can do for you now. I concluded the seminar presentations and talked about Field

Trip Fliers, Guidelines for field trip attendees, the Waiver of Liability form, and the Rockhound Sticker, its purposes and uses.

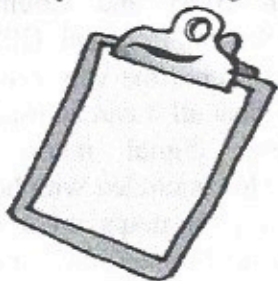
We held a raffle of donated items to help defray the expenses of the Seminar. Mary Hicks donated a digital map program for the computer; Wal-Mart donated a California map book, a digital compass and a regular compass and my neighbor (who is an automotive supply distributor) donated sever flashlights, several socket/tool sets and other items; and the California Geological Survey donated several nice posters. We had over 20 items. Several people won more than one item.

For lunch we served the large dinner hot dogs on a large bun from Costco, with all of the trimmings, chips, cookies and a can of pop. It was a good lunch and everyone ate their fill.

I had a lot of help putting on the Seminar. Mary Hicks did the shopping at Costco for our lunch and ran the registration table; Betty Pankey ran the kitchen for our coffee, muffins and lunch with special help from Hazel Woolsey, Sharon Neuhauser and Joanne Caskey; and Harry Nichandros ran the raffle. Other helpers that pitched in where needed were Theresa Clark, Mary Jernigan and Taylor, Terry Caskey, Barb Matz and Dennis Freiburger. **A SPECIAL BIG THANK YOU** to all of you!!

This was a great seminar: very interesting and important for all rockhounds; easy and fun to put on; and a great day with other rockhounds.

Richard Pankey – Inter - Regional Field Trips



Federation Director's Report

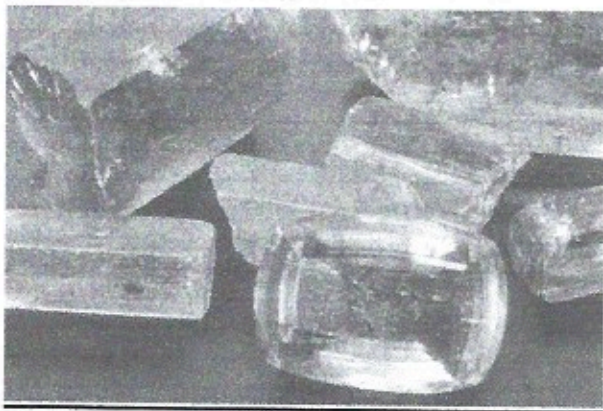
The Earth Science Studies program at Zzyzx concluded on March 30th. Two weeks for Camp Paradise are scheduled for Aug. 30th to Sept. 6th and Sept. 7th to 13th. If you are interested don't, delay in registering because this session fills up fast. Forms are available in the CFMS Newsletter and on the web site at www.cfmsinc.org under Forms. If you have any questions about the sessions at Camp Paradise please contact me. Camp Paradise is just out of Clipper Mill, Ca. north of Marysville, CA. The costs is \$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, silver and gold casting, glass bead making along with other disciplines as the cycles change.

The Tri-Federation Rock Hound Rendezvous is coming up on May 21st to 26th at Texas Springs, NV. This is the far northeast corner of NV, about 600 miles from Pittsburg. This is a repeat of our Rendezvous that was held in May of 2003, that I talked about at our March meeting. Contact me for the trip flier and details. It is a long drive but to me it is worth it.

The CFMS Show and convention will be held in Ventura on June 27 – 29. This is the Big One for the Federation. If you would like to attend and put in a display case see me for forms and details. The Conejo, Ventura and Oxnard G&MS are running the Silent

Auction. The proceeds will be donated to the CFMS Endowment Fund in Memory of Ray Meisenheimer. Ray conducted sales and silent auctions for the benefit of the Endowment Fund for many years. They are looking for donations of suitable, good auction materials – rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, petrified wood, geodes, etc. If you have any material to donate please let me know. If you are not going to the Show in Ventura I can take your donation for you.

Richard Pankey - Federation Director



This Month's Birthstone – Emerald

Information derived from internet and published sources: International Colored Gemstone Association, Wikipedia, The Crystal Bible.

Emeralds - Emeralds are a variety of the mineral beryl ($\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$) Trace amounts of chromium cause the green color in the stone. Emeralds come in many shades of green and bluish green. The beautiful Emerald is treasured for its' most intense, radiant emerald green color. Almost all emeralds contain flaws and inclusions which can affect the clarity of the stone. The value of an emerald depends on cut, color, clarity, and

carat. Clear stones with dark vibrant color are the most valued. In top quality, fine emeralds are even more valuable than diamonds

Localities – a rare emerald 'star' pattern with six sides (trapiche) is formed by raylike dark carbon impurities, and found in Columbian mines. The Columbian emeralds are most prized for their fire and transparency. Currently, the best emeralds come from the Muzo, Coscuez and Chivor mines in Colombia. Fine emeralds are also found in Zambia, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Pakistan, Indian and Russia. Zimbabwe has the oldest growing emeralds at 2600 million years ago, while Pakistan's emeralds are only 9 million years old. Other emeralds are also found in the U.S, in Gastonia, N. Carolina and in Yukon, Canada.

Folklore – The name emerald comes from the Greek 'smaragdos' via the Old French 'esmeralde', meaning 'green gemstone'. Incas and Aztecs of South America, considered the emerald as a holy gemstone.

The oldest known emerald gemstone mines, 'Cleopatra's Mines' were located in ancient Egypt, near the Red Sea. Egyptian pharaohs acquired emeralds from these mines between 3000 to 1500 BC.

Holy scriptures of the Indians, told about the precious green gems and their healing properties: 'Emeralds promise good luck ..'; and 'The emerald enhances the well-being ...'. Often treasure chests of Indian maharajas and maharanis contained amazing emeralds.



High Priest's Breastplate is said to have held an emerald, one of twelve gemstones representing the different tribes of Israel. This is generally considered to be (one of) the

origin(s) of our present day tradition of birthstones.

In some cultures, the emerald is the traditional gift for the 55th wedding anniversary. It is also used as a 20th and 35th wedding anniversary stone.

Famous Emeralds –

Mogul Emerald – one of the world's largest, discovered in 1695 weighs 217 carats, 10cm tall. Prayer texts are inscribed on one side and floral ornaments on the other. It was auctioned in 9/28/2001 by Christie's of London for 2.2 million dollars.

Patricia Emerald – one of the largest Colombian emerald crystals weighs 632 carats at the New York Museum of Natural History

Gachala Emerald – found in 1967 at La Vega de San Juan mine in Gachalá, Colombia weighs 858 carats. It is housed at the National Museum of Natural History- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Healing & Mystical Attributes – Emeralds are considered the stone of inspiration and infinite patience. The stone provides physical, emotional and mental balance. Emeralds open the heart chakra with a calming effect on emotions. Emeralds are extremely beneficial to stimulate cooperation within a group of people.

Care / Treatment of Emeralds - Most emeralds are oiled as after the lapidary process, to improve their clarity. Cedar oil, with a similar refractive index, is often used. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission requires the disclosure of this treatment when a treated emerald is sold. The amount of oil used on an emerald is about the size of a printed period dot. Use of the green-tinted oil is generally not acceptable by the gem trade.

Synthetic Emeralds – Often referred to as “created”, synthetic emeralds have the same chemical & gemological compositions as natural emeralds. Flux-grown synthetics have wispy veil-like inclusions. Luminescence in ultraviolet light is also used to test natural vs. synthetic emeralds since many natural emeralds are inert to ultraviolet light. Unfortunately, many synthetics are also UV inert.

Properties -

Category- Beryl variety

Chemical Formula – Beryllium aluminum silicate with chromium, $(\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6, \text{Cr})$

Crystal System – Hexagonal Crystals

Cleavage – Poor Basal Cleavage (seldom visible)

Fracture- Conchoidal

Mohs Scale Hardness - 7.5 – 8.0

Luster – Vitreous

Refractive Index - 1.276 – 1.582

Submitted by Mary Jernigan

CCM&GS – Club Promotion Booth

How did YOU discover our Rock Club? Years ago, after adventures collecting quartz crystals, I was searching the Solano Flea Market in Concord for other treasures. At the Flea Market, I met a **true Gem, Mr. Ed Miller**. Ed's excitement about the CCM&GS Club was quite contagious. As he talked about the Fieldtrips, Lapidary & Jewelry Classes and Monthly Programs, he invited me to attend the CCM&GS meeting as his guest. **THANK YOU, ED** for introducing me to ‘..a Great bunch of people, too’!!

Mark your Calendars! Club Promotion Booth - Sunday June 22nd, 2008, 7am – 3pm. Solano Flea Market 1611 Solano Way & Highway 4, Concord. Our Booth will provide us with an opportunity to introduce the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society to a

large public group. Club pamphlets, Mineral & Gem Items for Sale and Activities will be at the booth to generate interest for our Rockhound Hobby.

"Got Rocks ?" Donations & Volunteers are needed to support our Promotion Booth – Slabs, Geodes, Rocks, Jewelry & Craft Creations, Small Tools. Rockhound hobby items would be greatly appreciated. Sales proceeds from the Promotion Booth will help support the CCM&GS Club yearly activities. If you have items to contribute or are interested in volunteering to help with the Promotion Booth – Please contact Mary Jernigan (925) 429-2748 email m10jernigan@yahoo.com

Mary Jernigan - Publicity

ROCK HOUND RECEIPES

Rockhouters, start your treasure huntin' day off with this "sure-fire" easy-to-make breakfast grub! Rated: Crowd Pleaser!

ZIPLOC OMELETS (for the whole camp)

Have each person write their name (or mark their "X") on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag with a permanent marker.

Put out a variety of ingredients such as: cheeses, ham, bacon, mushrooms, onion, green pepper, tomato, etc.

Crack 2 eggs (large or extra-large) into each bag (not more than 2) & shake to combine them.

Each person adds prepared ingredients of choice to their bag, zip it, and shake it.

Open it. Burp it (not you), and make sure you zip it again (or big mess).

Place bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. You can usually cook 6-8 omelet bags in a large pot. To feed more rockhounds, heat up another

pot of boiling water.

Open the bag and slide omelet onto plate. Add salt and pepper or salsa, ketchup, etc. and wrap it in a tortilla and aluminum foil to eat on the go, or serve it in a plate with all your other favorite breakfast items and take your time enjoying your meal.

Tip: If you are planning a quick get-away in the a.m. when you get up, have these ready the night before, and put the bags in boiling water while you get ready to go.

Rockhouser Approved!

Submitted by Joanne Caskey

This would go perfect with Joanne's Omelets at Snyder's Pow Wow! I also use this recipe for dinners as well as breakfast. (It's great with chili!) For camping I usually make it ahead of time in foil pans and wrap them up in Saran Wrap. For my nieces who aren't into the Ortegas as much as the rest of my family, I make a loaf leaving out the chilies.

Ortega Green Chili Corn Bread

1 c corn meal
1 c milk
½ tsp kosher salt
½ tsp baking soda (added to the milk)
1 c grated Cheddar Cheese (save half for top)
1 c cream style corn
2 eggs
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 small can diced Ortega Chilies

Mix all ingredients except half of the cheese (reserved for the top) and bake in large iron skillet at 350 about 35 minutes. Add remaining cheese to the top of the bread and bake for an additional 5 minutes.

Submitted by Bonnie Eichler

**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY
PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m., except in June

**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 is Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Valley Bowl, Free Parking,

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

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

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