

# Diablo

Diablo  
Minerals



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01-02

*Contra  
Costa*

Mineral & Gem Society  
Walnut Creek, CA.

January 2002

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

# Diablo Diggings



## Monthly Meeting

By Ann Matthews, Vice President-  
Programs

We are starting off our 2002 year with a special program for January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Gary Collier and Bob Westlund of the Mt. Diablo Metal Detector's Club

will be our guest speakers. They will show slides of areas they have hunted and some of the things they have found and show us how it ties into our hobby. Gary said he was involved with the people of the Sixteen to One Gold Mine. I am sure you will find this program very interesting. Bring a Friend!

Next Meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, Concord. Corner of Salvio & Colfax Sts. Free parking at City of Concord garage on Salvio.

## Field Trips

By Hazel Woolsey, Vice President

COOP trips are rescheduled frequently! ALWAYS call before driving a long way for nothing! To assist, the COOP group has established a web site where their latest field trip information can be accessed.

<http://www.coop.freesevers.com/coop-fieldtrips.html>

Jan. 20-27, Quartzsite. Dick Pankey reported Ye Olde Timers will have some field trips during the last week of Quartzsite. Their camp is along Plomosa Road, several miles north of Quartzsite. They will also hold an auction at the senior center on Thursday evening (1/24) and a potluck in camp on Friday (1/25).

Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2002: Wiley Wells. Federation Trip. Contact Dick Pankey @ 925-439-7509



## Wiley Well District Field Trip-Take 2

January 28 - February 1, 2002

Back by popular demand. We had such a great field trip in 2000 we are going to do it again in 2002. We will be celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the dedication of this area as the Hauser Bed Educational and Recreational Area. We will collect at the traditional sites as well as some new ones. A great variety of materials are available to collect in the Wiley Well District. There are several productive geode beds including Hauser Beds, Roads End, Potato Patch, Straw Beds and Hidden Saddle Beds. All of these sites are in the Black Hills. Agate, chalcedony, jasper, pastelite, botryoidal psilomelane and crystal filled amygdules are found throughout the hills and washes. Another major rock hound attraction is the Opal Hill fire agate mine. This is a fee dig area located in the Mule Mts. Besides the very fine fire agate, quartz crystal "flowers", calcite crystals, chalcedony nodules and other mineral specimens can be found.

The end of January may seem like a long way off, but not for rock hounds planning their annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite and for planning our field trip to one of the finest collecting areas in southeast California. Five days of collecting are planned for the CFMS - North field trip to the Wiley Well District on Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002. This is a Monday through Friday. The Wiley Well area is a long-time, well known collecting area for geodes, agate, pastelite, psilomelane, fire agate, chalcedony roses, petrified wood, and much, much more. The Wiley Well area is southwest of Blythe. We will camp just off the Wiley Well road about 12.5 miles south of I-10. The campsite is a large, flat, open area suitable for trailers, motor homes and tents.

This field trip is being planned to coordinate with the activities at Quartzsite. The QIA and Tyson Well Shows are running a week earlier this year. Main Event and Desert Garden will have their traditional schedule. The QIA POW Wow runs Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. Our field trips will start Monday morning, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Betty and I will be at the campsite by late Sunday morning.

This is a beautiful time of year to visit the California desert. The weather is typically sunny and mild. The cacti, bushes and wild flowers are coming into bloom. Mark your calendars now (Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002) and plan to join us for this great rock hound event. Besides the daily collecting trips, we will have several potluck dinners, daily happy hours and evening campfires.

#### Schedule

Sunday Jan. 27. Arrive at camp.

Monday Jan. 28. AM-Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging Tools-shovels, picks, gads, etc. Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 AM. Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging Tools. Explore new site-The Big Windy for botryoidal psilomelane, geodes and nodules.

Wednesday, Jan 30 AM. Straw Bed for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools. South of Camp on Milpitas Wash Road for psilomelane.

Thursday and Friday, Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, destinations to be announced.



### BLM Trips-All are fee trips and NO collecting.

Geology & Mining History Field Trips - 2002 sponsored by Bureau of Land Management and Buena Vista Museum of Natural History.

This is a program of earth science field trips to points of ecologic, geologic, paleontologic and historic interest throughout central California. These trips are designed for persons of high school age and older. California is ever changing. The Geology Field Trip Program explores the changes that have occurred throughout California's complex and fascinating geologic history and focuses on the human interaction with this geology over the past 150 years. Visit web site at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/geologytrips.html> the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History web site is at [www.sharktoothhill.com](http://www.sharktoothhill.com)

**February 15-18, 2002. Death Valley.** This is a 3.5 day field trip program. We leave Friday afternoon and go to Trona Pinnacles and Ballerat on our way to Stovepipe Wells Campground. Saturday is spent at Mosaic Canyon, Scotty's Castle, Racetrack Playa, Ubehebe Crater and Titus Canyon. We camp Saturday at Furnace Creek. On Sunday we go to the Visitor's Center, Harmony Borax Works, Ryan, Dante's

View, Franklin Wells Hectorite Mine, Shoshone fossil trackways and Tecopa Hot Springs.

**April 5-7, 2002. Mother Lode The Southern Mines.** This 3.5 day field conference centered in Jamestown, California. On Friday we go to Jamestown and have an afternoon visit and lecture at the Sonora Museum. Our base of operations is at the Jumper Mine near Jamestown. On Saturday we have a tour of the Columbia and the Hidden Treasure Mine, Moaning Caverns, Calaveras Limestone Quarries, Amador County Museum and the Kennedy-Argonaught mine in Jackson. We return to Sonora in the evening. On Sunday we see a 10-stamp mill at Groveland, Coulterville Museum and mariposite outcrops, La Grange, Hornitos and the California Mines and Mineral Museum in Mariposa.

**June 1, 2002. Point Sal.** This is a 3-day field conference. A four-wheel drive vehicle is required. On Friday we go to Vandenberg Airforce Base to view the Point Sal Ophiolite. Friday night is spent in Lompoc. On Saturday we go to Point Sal by way of the Celite Diatomaceous Shale Quarry in Lompoc and the Lompoc Museum. We camp at Point Sal State Beach on Saturday night. Sunday is a hike from the beach to Point Sal.

**October 4-6, 2002. Panoche and Turney Hills.** This is a 2-day field conference. Leaving early Saturday morning, we set up a base camp at the edge of the Turney-Panoche Hills Wilderness Study Area. Saturday afternoon will be spent in reconnaissance for plesiosaur and mosasaur sites within a radius of 3 miles of base camp. Reconnaissance work will continue on Sunday afternoon.

For most programs, the registration fee is \$10/day. Teachers can make arrangement for continuing education credits. If you have any questions about these trips call Dr. Gregg Wilkerson at 661-391-6177 or contact the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History at 661-324-6350 or Hazel Woolsey at 925-837-3287.



## Education Report

By Dick Pankey, Education Chair

In January, **Donal Tompkins** will give a class on arrowhead knapping using the pressure flaking technique on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This class will be held in Room 208, at the Diablo Valley Adult Education Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., in Pleasant Hill at 7:00 PM. There are 15 openings and preference will be given to people who did not take Don's previous classes. Tools and arrowhead blanks will be provided, but if you have your own tools, please bring them along. Glasses or goggles and leather gloves are **strongly recommended**. The knapping projects will be done with obsidian.

Mark your calendars and make your plans for the 2002 classes:

**January**—Arrowhead Knapping with **Don Tompkins**

**February** – Project Nights (railroad spike scenes, round wire jewelry and more)

✧ **March** – Jewelry Fabrication with **Jim High**

✧ **April** – Bead Stringing with **Ophelia Hicks**

**May** – To be announced  
**June** – To be announced

**July** – Wire Art Jewelry with **Glen Mackenzie**

**August** – Rock Art and Critter Nights

**September** – To be announced  
**October** – To be announced

I have 4 more classes to arrange.

**Connie Klein** will give a class on fused, diachronic glass and **Betty Pankey** will give a class on stained glass in the fall. If anyone has a class they would like to teach, please let me know. I will be happy to help you plan and prepare. We are having good participation in our classes and we appreciate the people who have stepped forward to share their time and expertise.

For our classes in February we will have two project nights. The first night the projects will be creating a scene with pewter figures and rocks on an old railroad spike. The spikes and pewter figures that include railroad engines, cars and tracks, and miners, ore cars, burros and tracks will be supplied. Bring along any special crystals, pyrite, copper minerals or the like to dress up your scene.

On the second night **Betty Pankey** will teach us how to make rings and ear cuffs using round wire. Bring wire wrap tools and ring mandrills for these projects if you have them. We have supplies for 25 people. The projects are easy and fun. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

We need a couple of more crafts or projects for both nights. If you have an idea fun, easy, one night project please let me know.



## Ecology

By **Glen Mackenzie**, Ecology Chair

**BLACK ROCK DESERT:** Follow the bouncing ball!!! This has practically become a career job responding to ensuing proposals and I have a file that would choke a horse.

**February 1998:** BLM issued a 15 page document of the proposed management plan and indicated in their opinion that no environmental impact statement was required.

**September 1998:** Apparently a lot of folks felt that an environmental impact statement WAS required, as we received a 150 page Draft Environmental Impact Statement, to which we responded.

**October 1998:** BLM issued an amendment to the management plan.

**January 1999:** BLM issued Approved Lands Amendment and Decision Record. At this point you would think that all decisions had been made and that was that! But no..wait.

**August 2000:** BLM issues yet another Draft Environmental Impact Statement which really puts the last nail in the coffin as far as rock hounding is concerned.

**December 2000:** No more Mr. Nicc Guy. Senator Bryan D-Nevada hastily pushes through a bill in the final ours of the Clinton administration, really buttoning up the whole area for the hard core environmentalists.

**January 2001:** George W. is elected and the Republicans take the throne.

**October 28, 2001:** Related article in the Contra Costa Times... "Critics said the haste resulted in many errors in the law, including wilderness areas with power lines, roads, and gravel pits, and limited access to remote areas for hunters, photographers, rock hounds and other desert users."... The technical corrections package includes provisions to protect access roads into the Black Rock NCA and associated wilderness areas so sportsmen, private land owners, and grazing rights holders have access to public lands and their property. The measure allows more than 20 existing cherry stem roads to get people closer to the mountain ranges."

November 2001: BLM announces another round of public meetings to receive oral and written comments related to the Black Rock National Conservation Area (NCA)



The following letter (added at the end of the newsletter) is our response and I think we may have a slight chance of being listened to. Keep tuned to this station.



## The Reading Room

By Marlow Hicks, Librarian

**Step-by-Step Jewelry** by Thomas Gentile. Book #310.

Making jewelry is a craft that can be easily practiced at home. It does not require a lot of space. The tools are nominal in price and last for years. The singular purpose of jewelry is to adorn the human form. To these end it places no limit on your imagination.

The section of the book containing the basic processes should be read carefully, since it is with these that you will be able to produce an unlimited variety of work. The basic processes, together with a few simple tools, will enable you to make the jewelry offered in ten projects. These projects have step-by-step directions with diagrams and progress in logical sequence from a simple sawed pin to more complex pieces.

### DUES FOR 2002

Membership dues were payable in Nov. & Dec. for 2002. For those who haven't paid, please do so and mail it to me BEFORE Jan. 25, 2002 - single \$10., couple \$15.

Make check payable CCMGS, mail to Jim Bufton, 261 Santa FE Dr., Walnut Creek CA 94598.

4 If dues not received by me by Jan. 25, you will not be listed as member. . . and will not receive the Diablo Diggin's bulletin.

## Gem for January

By Mary Hicks, from McGraw Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science & Technology, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

### GARNET

Garnet is a hard dense silicate mineral which occurs as crystals of cubic symmetry in a wide range of geologic environments. The general chemical formula of the silicate garnet group is  $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$  where, in natural occurrences, the A cations are dominantly Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Mg, and Ca, and the B cations are Al, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, and Cr<sup>3+</sup>.

The garnet mineral group is generally divided into a number individual species on the basis of chemical composition. The more common of these species are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular, andradite, and uvarovite.

Garnets are substantially denser than most chemically analogous silicates, with specific gravities ranging between 3.58 (pyrope) to 4.32 (almandine). They also have high refractive indices (1.71-1.89) and hardness, on Mohs scale, of 6.5 to 7.5. The relative hardness, coupled with the absence of cleavage, has led to the use of garnet as an abrasive. The color of garnet is primarily controlled by its chemical composition. Uvarovite is emerald green, gem varieties of garnet are generally clear, deep red pyrope.

Garnets are widespread in their occurrence, particularly in rocks which formed at high temperatures and pressures. Because of the large, readily identifiable crystals which form, the first appearance of garnet is commonly used by geologists as an index of the intensity, or grade, of metamorphism. Garnets are strongly resistant to weathering and alteration and are hence widespread constituents of sands and sediments in areas of garnetiferous primary rocks.

## Stone of the Month

By Douglas Rue

No report for December.

## Membership

By Jim Bufton, Membership Chair



### Birthdays

Mary Hicks	1/1
Kim Kleesattel	1/3
Glen Hubbard	1/5
Anne Pevzhouse	1/15
Eva Umholtz	1/16
Ophelia Hicks	1/20
Mark Blackman	1/20
Linda Minnich	1/22
Doug Malby	1/22
Dave Cunningham	1/23
Lyle Roessler	1/28

### Anniversary

Betty & Glen Mackenzie	1/1
Jeanie & Ron Russo	1/3
Jean & Bob Duncan	1/4
Bonnie & Joe Zehrunge	1/8
Phyllis & Mike Howard	1/18
Betty & Gaylord Jerde	1/24

(If the date is incorrect or you have a birthday or anniversary this month and you are not included, please send a written correction to Mary Hicks to help her update records.)

## CFMS Shows

**January 12-13 2002, Exeter, CA**  
Tule G&MS, Veteran's Memorial Bldg.,  
10-5 both days. Raymond Cooke  
(559)686-5669 or 733-0271

**February 1, 2, 3, 2002, Redlands, CA.**  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Micromount  
Conference. So. California Micro-  
Mineralogists, San Bernardino City  
Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane.,  
Beverly Moreau (714)577-8038. E-mail  
bcmoreau@4dnet.com  
[www.mineralsocal.org/micro/](http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/)

**February 15-24, 2002, Indio, CA.** San  
Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society,  
Riverside County Fair and National  
Date Festival; Gem and Mineral Bldg.  
46-350 Arabia St. Daily 10-10. Don  
Grisham 909-795-7289.

**March 1-10, 2002, El Centro, CA**  
Imperial Valley G&MS, Expo & Fair.  
Monday through Thursday 4-10 and  
Friday through Sunday 10-10.

**March 2-3 2002, Arcadia, CA**  
Menrovia Rockhounds, The Arboretum  
LA City, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin  
Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. 9-4:30 both  
days. Jo Anna Ritchey (636)359-1624  
or j.ritchey@verizon.net

**March 2-3 2002, Ventura, CA**  
Ventura G&MS, Seaside Park (Ventura  
County Fairgrounds), 10 West Harbor  
Blvd. Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4. Jim Brace-  
Thompson (805)659-3577.  
[jbraceth@juno.com](mailto:jbraceth@juno.com) or [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 9-10 2002, Turlock, CA.**  
Mother Lode Mineral Society,  
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds; 10-5  
both days. Ted Magee and Bud  
McMillin 209-522-8231 or 209-527-  
8000.

**March 9-10 2002, Vallejo, CA.**  
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society,  
Solano County Bldg, Solano County  
Fairgrounds. 10-5 both days. Ed  
Hoffmark 707-642-8754.

**March 16-17 2002, San Jose, CA**

Santa Clara Valley G&MS, Santa Clara  
County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road,  
San Jose, CA. Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5.  
Ruth Bailey (408)248-6195 or  
[scvgsms@aol.com](mailto:scvgsms@aol.com)  
<http://chriscox.org/scvgsms>

**March 16-17 2002, Hawthorne, CA**  
Northrop Grumman G&MS. 12329  
Crenshaw Blvd., (Gate 16). Sat 10-6 &  
Sun 10-5. Jimmy Lapham at Lapham  
[@earthlink.net](mailto:@earthlink.net)

**March 23-24, 2002, La Habra, CA**  
North Orange County G&MS  
La Habra Clubhouse, 200 W.  
Greenwood. Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-4. Don  
& Jane Livezey (909)524-6280 or  
[jdlive27@aol.com](mailto:jdlive27@aol.com)

**March 23-24, 2002, Boron, CA.**  
Mojave Gem and Mineral Society,  
Boron High School Multi-purpose  
Room. Prospect Street. Sat 9-5 and  
Sunday 9-4. David Eyre 760-762-6575.

**April 6-7 2002, Hacienda Heights, CA**  
Puente Hills G&MC, Magic in Rocks,  
Steinmetz Park, 1545 Stimson Avenue.  
10-5 both days. Bob Hess (562)696-  
2270

**April 20-21, 2002, Mariposa Mineral &  
Gem Show, CA.** Second Annual Show,  
Exhibit Buildings A & B at the  
Mariposa Fairgrounds. Free admission.  
E-mail [mineralmuseum@sierratel.com](mailto:mineralmuseum@sierratel.com).  
Mova Verde, State Park Interpreter.

**April 27-28 2002, Santa Cruz, CA**  
Santa Cruz M&GS, Santa Cruz Civic  
Auditorium, Corner of Center & Church  
Streets, 10-5 both days.



## Quartzsite 2002 is coming.

By Ophelia Hicks

Just to make sure members have the correct dates for a fun time in the desert in January here is some information.

Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral-  
January 1 through February 28.

Tyson Wells Rock, Gem & Mineral  
January 4 through January 13.

Quartzsite Rock & Roll Classic Car  
Show January 12 & 13.

Four Corners Swap Meet January 16  
through February 10.

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama January 18  
through January 27.

Main Event Rocks, Gems, Arts, &  
Crafts January 19 through February 3.

Quartzsite Sports, Vacation & RV Show  
January 19 through 27.

QIA Pow Wow January 23 through 27.

Clouds Jamboree 2002 has moved to  
Laughlin, Nevada. Friday, January 11  
through Sunday, January 20. POB  
2289, Laughlin, NV, 89029 #1-866-  
558-7719.

## AFMS Regional Shows 2002

Rocky Mountain Federation, April  
19-21 2002, Enid, Oklahoma.

South Central Federation, February  
8-9 2002, Tyler, Texas.

California Federation, July 12-14,  
2002, Placerville, CA. Treasures of the  
Sierra Nevada, El Dorado County  
M&GS, El Dorado County Fairgrounds,  
100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA  
(530)622-3030

Northwest Federation, July 16-21,  
2002, Port Townsend, WA



## CFMS Earth Science Studies- at Zzyzx, March 24-31, 2002

By Cal Clason/Ray Meisenheimer

It is time to be thinking and preparing for the Earth Science Studies on the desert at Soda Springs, known as ZZYZX. The dates are March 24 to 31, 2002. The facilities are an old resort located about 50 miles northeast of Barstow on ZZYZX Road. Take Highway 15 toward Baker. ZZYZX Road is about four miles before you come to Baker.

Facilities are rustic, with dorm style rooms, and rooms with double beds or cots. Restrooms and showers are in a separate building nearby. As this is a desert preserve dedicated to desert studies, no pets are allowed.

### What is Zzyzx?

If you have never heard of the Earth Science Studies, it is a weeklong seminar sponsored by CFMS where rockhounds can make new friends, study lapidary arts, exchange ideas, go on field trips, socialize and have fun.

Workshops include bead stringing, silversmithing, sculpturing (carving), wire wrap, cabochons, and perhaps others. Attendance at this seminar is limited to sixty people. Register early.

### RV's ok.

There is ample room for RVs, and you may be more comfortable bringing yours if you have one.

For reservation forms, information, or questions, call: Ruth Bailey (408)248-6195 or Frank Monez (408)578-7067.

## The Bola Tie Revisited

*From an Original source unknown, via Napa Gems 12/01, via Nugget 9/01, via Breccia 6/98.*

The bola (not bolo) tie, though known in much of the world, is most prevalent in the Southwestern U.S. There are many stories as to the origin of the bola tie, but the one that is normally accepted started in 1949 with Victor E. Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Cedarstaff was riding horseback when the wind blew his hat off; the band had come loose. Instead of putting it back on the hat, he put the band around his neck. A friend saw this and remarked, "Nice tie you're wearing!"

That gave Vic an idea. He was a silversmith and had taught leather craft, so he made a tie from leather lacing s and attached silver balls at the end. Then he made a silver slide with a piece of turquoise on it and slipped in on the lacing. This attracted attention, and he began to get orders to make them. He was unable to get a patent on the tie because such a slide arrangement was already in existence.

One problem was to make the slide so it would slip but not damage the leather. Eventually, he de-signed a yoke, which held the leather properly and eliminated the necessity of having to slip the tie over the head. Now he had something new, and on this modification he was issued a patent.

He needed a name for the tie which would help popularize it, and first called it a Piggie Necklet after the piggie string that cowboys used. Sometime later, a friend who had been in Argentina showed Vic a device he had brought back called a bola. This was used in Argentina for catching cattle and it reminded Vic of what he had made. The initial name never caught on, and Vic decided to call his tie a bola. It is now the official neckwear of Arizona.

## Clark County Gem Club Member Receives Website Award

*By Craig Edmonds via the Polished Slab, Las Vegas, December 2001.*

James Legge recently won the International Award of the Rockhounds.com. They give awards to the best web sites in lapidary. The site is [www.coppertopmtngems.com](http://www.coppertopmtngems.com) ★★



## Novelty-Item Creator Reintroduces Rocks

*By Barbara Heim via the Polished Slab, Las Vegas, December 2001.*

The Pet Rock is making a comeback, but with an anti-violence twist.

Pet Rocks are being thrown back onto the market for the first time in 26 years by the man who invented them, 64-year-old Gary Dahl.

He says the new Pet Rocks are a kinder, gentler breed of stone thanks to a rewriting of the "owner's manual."

The first Pet Rocks unleashed in August 1975 came with a manual on "attack training" that, in light of the current situation, has been removed.

Dahl says he created the first Pet Rock while drinking with some buddies who were griping about problems with their real pets. Within five months he sold 1 million Pet Rocks.

## Crystals are a Problem

By Cornelius J. Hurlbut, Jr. from Napa Gems December 2001

When first I studied crystals,  
I didn't have the knack.  
Of three dimensional thinking  
This skill I seemed to lack.

I'd turn and twist the crystal round  
In hope that I could see  
At least one axis or a plane  
Of crystal symmetry.

The prism, pinacoid and dome.  
The rhombic pyramid,  
All looked the very same to me,  
No matter what I did.

But, now, I've studied long and hard  
And I think I'm somewhat wise  
For in no length of time at all  
The cube I recognize.



## Club Members Invited to Installation Ceremony

By Mary Hicks

Marlow and Ophelia Hicks conducted the Installation Ceremony for the Antioch Mineral Club. The club had a wonderful Christmas Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. The Installation followed the holiday feast.

## Petrified Wood Fact

Via Livermore Lithogram 12/01 via CFMS Newsletter 11/01 via pegmatite 10/01

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between



the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the wood and the cast were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

## Gems From the Kitchen

By Barbara Snook via Napa Gems 12/01

**Clam Dip** (If you want to try a dip that does not use sour cream here is a gem.)

1 8-oz package of cream cheese  
1 can of minced clams

salt, pepper, garlic salt, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce.

Start by softening the cream cheese, enough to be mashed easily with a fork. Add the minced clams and enough clam juice to thin the cream cheese for dipping.

Then add salt, pepper, garlic salt-sprinkle in a little at a time-lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce-add a few drops at a time and taste as you go. Be careful; it doesn't take much of each of these additions, but the result is great!



## Looking Good with Copper

From My Generation Jan/Feb 2002

An interesting article about the Copper Connection-Mining Nature yields new Anti-aging Treatment. Doctors have used copper ointments to treat acute wounds. It was noted the copper bolsters enzymes that stimulate the growth of collagen. So, guess what? A company, ProCyte Corp., developed a technology to bind copper to a peptide so that copper can be absorbed by the skin. This copper-peptide cream, Neova, is available from dermatologists' offices at \$65 for 2 oz. Other products are Neutrogena's Visibly Firm Night Cream and Osmotics' Blue Copper Firming Elasticity Repair.

## Great Truths about Life

Forwarded to me by Kaayla Fox who is now living in New Mexico.

Great truths about life that little children have learned.

No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.

Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.

You can't trust dogs to watch your food.

Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.

Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time.

The best place to be when you are sad is in Grandma's lap.





## CCM&GS Board Meeting 12/05/01

*Respectfully submitted Louise Gilley, Secretary*

President Joe Yarbrough called the meeting to order in his home. In attendance were Glen Hubbard, Dick Pankey, Mary Ann King, Mary and Jim Bufton, Hazel and Sam Woolsey, Connie Klein.

Glen Hubbard reported our trailer has been moved to Connie's. He was in Awe of Hawkeye Hicks' skill in backing up the trailer.

Sam Woolsey talked with Mr. Ott of the Federation about the options for insuring the trailer and contents. We have our contract for the 2002 show. Gene Holcomb will be our liaison to the Mt. Diablo School District. Several members attended our show and were impressed with educational content and potential. Sam and Ophelia Hicks are drafting a letter about educational possibilities.

Connie Klein had reports of recorded expenses for the year 2001 for property, education, and membership. Connie gave the treasurer's report.

Jim Bufton reported no new applications for membership.

Dick Pankey reported on upcoming classes.

Joe Yarbrough gave Ann Matthews' report.

Joe Yarbrough would like each chair to give him a report of what their specific duties are. He will discuss this more at the January Board meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

## CCG&MS General Meeting, 12/09/01

*Respectfully submitted by Louise Gilley, Secretary*

We had our annual Christmas Potluck and Ornament Exchange, with the club providing the ham and everyone bringing sumptuous dishes! Good



conversations and good company were shared by all. We had numerous guests join us in the celebration.

Sam Woolsey awarded two lottery winners from our show. Roseanne Cannon won \$100 and Margaret De Wilde won \$150.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 pm by President Joe Yarbrough.

Marlow Hicks brought books and videos to be checked out by members.

Dick Pankey announced Don Tompkins knapping class will be in January to make arrowheads.

Don Tompkins had the bulletin board with listings for buy, sell, trade and for interest.

Joe Yarbrough announced that the California Federation of Mineral and

Gem Society is honoring Jim and Mary Bufton for always providing a friendly helping hand to all our members and guests, for their contributions to the club and community. Jim joined the club in 1965, and shortly after took the Property Chair job. After that, he became membership chair, a position which he continues to fill. Mary joined shortly after Jim, But was assisting in club activities even before she joined. She continues to help everyone. Mary is the Publicity Chair. We are all pleased to have them awarded this certificate of honor and we are all enriched by their contributions.

Dick Pankey installed the Board Officers for 2002. He made it entertaining and informative he gave a synopsis of their duties and asked everyone to please help them in the upcoming year.

President Joe Yarbrough

First Vice-President of Programs Ann Matthews

Second Vice-President of Field Trips Hazel Woolsey

Treasurer Connie Klein

Secretary Sharon Neuhauser

• Federation President Bob Pevahouse (Sherb Brown stood in for Bob who was unable to attend the meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Submit articles and news for the February Diablo Diggins by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Mr. Jaime Thompson  
Bureau of Land Management  
Winnemucca Field Office  
5100 E Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Subject: Black Rock Desert Area NCA

Dear Sir:

**ROCKHOONDING**

Much of the following was included in the previous EIS, October 1, 2000, however additional comments are included. These comments come to you from the perspective of a large group of recreational hobbyists, including both professionals and amateur students of the earth sciences related to rocks, minerals and fossils, referred to in the Draft EIS as "rockhounds". Even though they only represent about 15% of the Black Rock visitors it is fair to say that rockhounds were among the very first recreational hobbyists to explore the Black Rock Range. Of the more than 150 established mineral and gem societies within the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, there is hardly one that has not experienced the area. Many of those more senior members of these organizations have 40 or more years of field trips in the Black Rock Range.

There is little question that with repetition of large scale events, speed trials, windsurfing, etc. the playa needs protection from heavy stress as do the historic trails, however rockhounding which is confined to the mountain range itself is a low impact activity. Rockhounding has been allowed over many decades and should continue to be accommodated. Collecting activities, however, should be limited to surface or shallow non-commercial collecting only, as conducted on other BLM lands, such as Clear Creek in northern California and the Hauser geode beds in the south.

The majority of individuals engaged in these activities are members of established gem and mineral societies through out the western states who operate in the field under a formal code of ethics promoting concern for the environment as well as good citizenship.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

In addition to the enjoyment of field collecting, the products of this activity are largely used for educational and research. Outstanding specimens are displayed for education of the public at libraries and special mineral society shows. Teaching displays are prepared and brought to schools to provide school children with a hands-on view of how our earth was formed and to stimulate thinking towards career opportunities in the earth sciences. This is often the first mind-opening experience in this field, provided to these children. Over the years, many Black Rock Range specimens have figured largely in these teaching materials.

In addition, many of these gem and mineral societies, through the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies fund scholarships to deserving college students to help further their education in the earth sciences field. Without access to these resources

in the field, this public education phase would not be possible. The closure of many other areas in the West has already seriously impacted this activity.

### **ACCESS**

Key to the continuation of rockhounding in the Black Rock area is access. Virtually the only use of the playa by rockhounds is for access to and from campgrounds at the foothill edge areas. Our main concern is with the edge access roads and their connecting roads to the back country where rockhounding activities have historically occurred. Long established 4-wheel drive roads should remain to provide this access to interior of the ranges. One such road begins about one mile south of Hardin City trending northeast approximately four miles over the crest of Black Rock range, through the "slot", providing access to the crest of the range and to the eastern arm of Black Rock Desert, as well as immediate branches leading to the southern parts of the range. We urge that these remain intact.

The previous Draft EIS seems to lump ATVs, dirt bikes, dune buggies and 4-wheel drive passenger vehicles into one class and categorizes them as destructive and noisy. It should be pointed out that most rockhounds use 4-wheel drive vehicles in a responsible manner, imposing small impact on established roads and do not present a noise or safety hazard to hikers, bikers or pedestrians.

The BLM analysts seem to feel that a road that ends in the back country, without connecting through to a noteworthy location is a road to "nowhere". These should be considered as "cherry stems" to the interior.

### **CAMPING**

The previous EIS publications placed severe limitations on camping, presumably because of concerns about remains of unsightly debris and clutter. All of these Federation rockhound groups adhere to strict camping ethics and normally leave the campground cleaner than when they arrived. Often, one entire day will be devoted specifically to collecting debris left by others as they rockhound across the range. This has been welcomed by the BLM at Clear Creek and Hauser beds.

In actual fact, however, the campsite of choice for these groups has historically been at Double Hot Springs, which is private property.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen B. MacKenzie P.E., Ecology Chair  
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society  
527 Osborn Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

# ALERT

## US Postal Service Irradiation Process May Affect Some Gemstones

Contributed by Kelly Van Vleck

Since the recent transfer of anthrax via the mail system, the US Postal Service is seeking ways to protect postal employees and the public from this threat.

### Irradiation

One company with which the postal service has contracted, SureBeam (a subsidiary of Titan Corp.), uses irradiation to kill the microorganisms that often contaminate food. However, this type of ionizing radiation is often used intentionally to change the color of some gem materials — and could produce an undesirable result as well.

#### Tests run on gems

Titan uses 5.6 megarads. For the initial tests, the GIA had tests run on gems known to be affected by irradiation in a significant way. Three sets of the samples were boxed up in the way that GIA normally ships gems.

Because gems are often shipped through the mail more than once, one package was scanned once, one package was scanned twice, and the third package was scanned four times to see if the cumulative effect of multiple scans caused any significant difference.

After retrieving the packages, they were scanned with a Victoreen model 290 radiation survey meter on the unopened packages as well as the individual stones. No residual radiation was found.

The changes in appearance are noted in the chart at the end of this article. The changes from the one scan to the four scans were similar, though the degree of change was different for some stones.

#### Implications

Currently the postal service is scanning only a small portion of the mail and only letters and flat envelopes. *Probably nothing will be done to packages that are sent registered or certified [the preferred method for the jewelry industry].*

FedEx, US Customs Service, Brinks, Malca Amit, and UPS confirmed that they are not currently using irradiation procedures.

Note that some color changes would not be permanent, some will fade with exposure to light back to their original colors. Others can be changed back with heat. Still others will never revert to their original color. Also note that not all members of the same species or even the same variety will react similarly.

### Reference

<http://www.gia.edu/gandg/special-issue-112701>.

GEM	BEFORE	AFTER
diamond	near colorless	near colorless - no change
diamond	gray	gray - no change
kunzite	pink	green
morganite	brownish or orangy 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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682-3894

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## Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**General Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

