



# Diablo Diggins

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

June 2023

VOL. 71 NO 6

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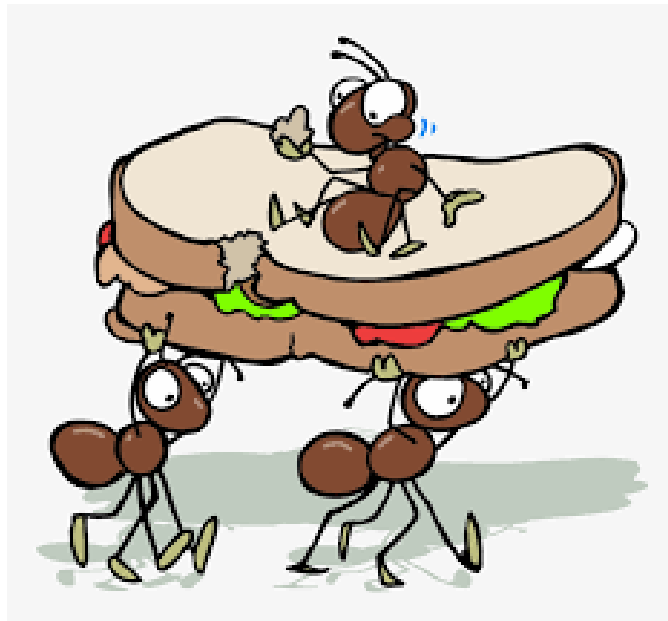


## Club Details

**General Meeting**.....**Annual Picnic!**

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2 PMPM Morgan's Ranch 6040 Morgan Territory Rd, Clayton 94517

For details please check out the flyer on a separate attachment. Call Cheryl at 925 899-1309 to let her know your are coming or if you have any questions.



**Remember.... Everyone is invited, bring a neighbor**

**“We Dig Rocks”  
Since 1950**

## Field Trip Notes

### Another Trip to Fallon Nevada

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in and sign out with the field trip leader.
- CO-OP website has information: [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed).
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed
- All non-CFMS members are required to contact the Field Trip Leader before a field trip for any insurance requirements.

**TRIP LOCATION – SATURDAY - HIGHWAY 839 & 50 EAST OF FALLON- SLATE MT. & EARTHQUAKE FAULT.**

**SUNDAY - HIGHWAY 50 EAST OF FALLON GRIMES POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE  
WONDERSTONE YELLOW AND GREEN MOUNTAIN.**

#### TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE

**Vehicle Access & Parking - # 9 Saturday limited parking to 15-18 vehicles.**

**Collection or View Site - # 6 Saturday walking over hills the further you go more you will find.**

**Vehicle Access & Parking - #8 Sunday should be plenty of parking.**

**Collection or View Site - #5 Sunday rocks not far from the car.**

**WHEN – JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**SPONSOR CLUB – MOTHER LODE MINERAL SOCIETY**

**LEADER & CONTACT INFO – MISTY WATSON**

**[mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com](mailto:mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com) cell (209)480-3176**

**MEMBER'S GUESTS – Allowed**

**COLLECTION MATERIAL – SATURDAY - JASPER, AGATE, CHALCEDONY, AGATE & CRYSTAL FILL NODULES. POSSIBLE PET WOOD AT EARTHQUAKE FAULT. SUNDAY RYOLITE BANDED RHYOLIT**



## Let Us Carve

Our newsletter is focused on the how to aspects of our hobby. This edition is taking the next step beyond drilling a hole in a rock. You should now have the do everything tool for the lapidary arts. a hand held rotary tool. If you do not have one yet...come to the general meeting/ picnic at the Morgans. Our next lesson is how to engrave or put a simple carving on a stone.



The uses for such stones are endless, jewelry, decorative, even gifting. The point is that with the addition of your artistic spirit, it becomes more than just a random stone. It makes a collection a hobby.

The key to rotary tool success is selecting the right bit or attachment for the task at hand. For rock carving, you need [diamond bits](#). If you can't find what you need in the Dremel lineup, look for inexpensive 3rd party kits. There are lots of size and shape options out there, including cylinders, tapers, balls, cones and discs

### What You Will Need:

- Stone
- r a Sharpie marker pen
- [Dremel Drill](#) or similar hobby rotary tool ( with flexible shaft, optional)
- Assorted small diamond burrs.
- Goggles and mask
- Shallow tray such as a plastic food container, paint tray or sandwich box
- Water
- Old towel or cloth **Laying Out Your Design**

Like any art project the first step is to figure out what design you are going to invest your effort in. For a first project a Celtic trinity knot” and is also known as a “triquetra” or “trefoil is both simple and esthetically pleasing. As rock painters know, use a Sharpie ink marker to put your design on the rock. Black is preferable to this author, but not mandated. This design or others can be placed on the rock using carbon copy paper, (available at office

**Safety ALWAYS**

supply stores and occasionally dollar stores.} Then use a Sharpie to make the design water proof.

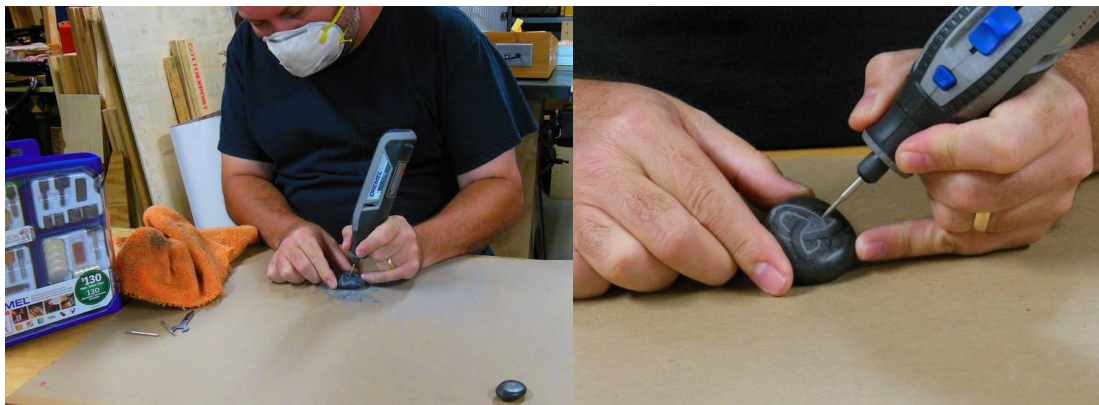


Diamond bits are extremely unlikely to ever throw rock chips (unless you create really thin ridges that can break and fly off, or you are working with very brittle material like obsidian). If you wear glasses, like me, it is a good idea to wear goggles over the glasses because beyond the rare event of a flying chip, the stone dust will abrade the surface. By the way, valuing your eyeballs as much as a pair of glasses is a great idea too, so wear goggles even if you are not protecting expensive glasses.. With a diamond bit you're basically just sanding the material away. You are creating a very fine dust, so a breathing mask is a good idea as well. DO NOT work with asbestos bearing rock or shells with your hand tool without additional protection. The dust might be toxic

As noted in the article about drilling holes, the drill bits can be abrasive to skin, so try to avoid putting holes in yourself. Self piercing is not the objective.

### **Finding the Diamond.**

Experienced carvers tell you that carving is merely finding the unwanted material and removing it. There is, apparently, a true image or carving in every rock. My experience is that as long as your definition of art is broad enough, there are no mistakes, just individual expressions. Start by using a fine pointed drill bit to etch the inked design into the stone. At this point remember you are not a robot or a laser, your etching will not be perfect but wabi sabi is value of your effort. When you are removing material around the design you can make modifications to correct these errors.



Once the design is etched in, use a blunt end drill bit to take out the unwanted material between the lines. On this project a drum shape 1/16 " diamond burr, with diamonds on the end was used .



To quote a good song, keep your bit "between the navigational buoys". Start with the inside details. That way, if you overshoot the line you can adjust your outside border to compensate. Carve shallow at first then slowly work your way deeper. Once you've defined the outline, it will be a lot easier to stay on course. Your goal is a smooth gradient surface in the stone that expresses the knot as a design on the stone .



Next carve outside the know to reveal the image within. Using a larger, slightly tapered bit and cut a groove around the perimeter of the design. I was able to dig in fairly aggressively without a problem. But don't force it; it's still a relatively slow process and the more you load the motor, the faster the battery discharges. For perspective, this entire project took just over two full battery charges to complete. If the rock grows warm, stop and let it cool down. Harder rock will get warmer faster and if it get to warm it will break,

Refer to the Mols Scale in the last edition of the newsletter to judge the hardness of the rock you are carving. When carving harder rocks that heat quickly, breakage can be avoided by creating a drip system to keep the rock cooled by water. One can buy drip systems from Dremel or hand tool manufacturers, You can make your own using an IV bag with a drip hose or a large drink dispenser. More simply, a shallow tray with a wet towel serve well to cool the stone, and protect your work surface.

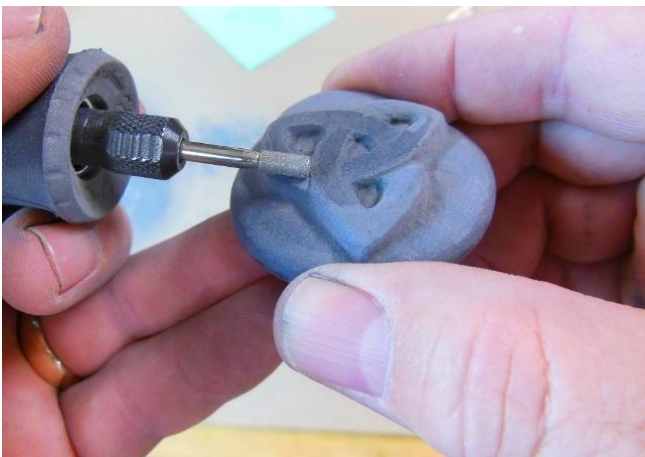


This is an example of a design with both etching and carving at the same time...remember your imagination and your stone set the only limits on your rock

This design places the knot on the stone, thus it is a carving. If it were an etching the design would be ground into the stone. To grind the stone away from the design switch to a larger diameter bit and grind away the background.



There are still a lot of rough edges and corners to take care of before polishing the surface.



At this point, the carving looks dull and unrefined. There are several ways to make it more presentable. The easiest would be to spray it with clear lacquer or enamel. But the best option is polishing. Polishing can be done with the right polishes and bits with your drill, but let's table that discussing for our next issue.



<https://homefixated.com/how-to-carve-rocks-with-dremel-lite/>

<https://www.hellopractical.com/cut-polish-rocks-with-a-dremel/>

<https://www.clumsycrafter.com/carved-rocks-love-rocks/>

<https://www.lilblueboo.com/2012/09/carving-rocks-with-a-dremel.html>

[https://www.ehow.com/how\\_7533034\\_carve-stone-dremel.html](https://www.ehow.com/how_7533034_carve-stone-dremel.html)

<https://www.eternaltools.com/blog/how-to-carve-hearts-in-pebbles-sea-glass>



## Summer Rock Shows

**June 23-25—LODI, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; California Federation of Mineralogical Societies; Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fairgrounds, 413 E. Lockeford Street; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6/day (adults); \$5/day (seniors, 60+), \$3/day (juniors, 12-17); kids under 12 free with paid adult; Celebrating mineral/fossil collecting, lapidary/jewelry arts, & associated interests, the Annual Show & Convention of CFMS features dealers, kids activities, educational displays (including the famed "Golden Bear" gold nugget), raffles, & more. A fun California tradition since 1936; contact Bob Rush; Email: [rocksbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rocksbob@sbcglobal.net); Website: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)



**July 7-9—ASHLAND, OREGON:** Annual show; Ashland Rocks; Ashland Historic Armory, 208 Oak St; Fri. 3-8, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Friday Admission; contact Tara Bergstrand; Email: [terradawnminerals@gmail.com](mailto:terradawnminerals@gmail.com); Website: [ashlandrocks.com](http://ashlandrocks.com)

**July 21-23—SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA:** Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire; Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fashion accessories & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

**Aug 4-6—SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA:** Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire; Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fashion accessories & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

**Aug 5-6—ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society; Roebbelen Event Center - @ the Grounds Roseville, 700 Event Center Drive; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; General Admission \$8, Seniors 60+ \$7, Kids - 12 and under Free. Parking \$10. Discount coupon - <http://www.rockrollers.com/show.html>; Northern Californiai BIG Gem and Mineral Show, 65+ vendors, inside and out, featuring: Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Opal, Amethyst, Beads, Gemstones, Free Scientific Mineral ID, Prospecting equipment/supplies, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Rock Auctions, Youth Activities. Great family fun; contact Gloria Marie; Email: [gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com); Website: <https://www.rockrollers.com/index.html>

**Aug 11-13—SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA:** Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire; Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls,



minerals, fashion accessories & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

**Sept 16-17—MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$5 kids under 12 free with adult; contact Susie Harlow, (831) 637-0735; Email: susieharlow@gmail.com; Website: [www.cvgms.rocks](http://www.cvgms.rocks)

**Sept 16-17—RENO, NEVADA:** Annual show; Reno Gem & Mineral Society; Reno Convention Center, 4390 S. Virginia St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$8, Children under 12 years old Free; Silent Auction-deals, Wheel of Fortune-Fun, Kid's Corner-surprises, Fluorescent Tent-marvels, Demonstrators-knowledge, 30 Vendor-deals, Display-showcases, Door Prizes-galore; contact Dan Ellis , (775) 229-4420; Email: jpog@renogms.org; Website: renogms.org

**Sept 16-17—CHICO, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society Inc; Silver Dollar Fair Grounds, 2357 Fair St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$5 Adults, all kids under 16 Free; Jade, Opal, Rough Rock, Crystals Fossils, Mineral, Demonstrations Jewelry making, Wire Wrapping, Rock Carving and Painting, and Geode cutting. Display cases, Kid's Wheel of Fortune, Treasure Hunt, Grab Bags, Fossilized Shark Tooth Necklace to the first 250 Kids both days; contact John Scott III, (153) 032-16331; Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net

