



Diablo Diggins

“We Dig Rocks”
Since 1950

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

February, 2022

VOL. 70 NO 2

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ORGANIZING YOUR COLLECTION

It was a dark and stormy night and our intrepid rock collector was searching a molding pile of collapsed cardboard boxes. You knew you had seen it somewhere, somewhere now hidden. It was a green-blue vug rock you got in Quartzsite from your good friend Kahn or was it Kane, blue-nose Bob?

You had no idea why you wanted to see it again, maybe it was the conversation around the table at the Holiday party last month. Or maybe it was the ‘door stop’ rock you have had since the early 80’s. You have no idea where IT came from or why it reminded you of the rock you are looking for. Well it was pretty and red, and it was a roundish shape. Suddenly, the pile finally gave up and toppled in a billowing cloud of dust.

Sound familiar? Most of us collect rocks, cabochons mineral specimens, even mining artifacts. How can we organize our collection so that we can find the item and keep the information that makes that item special enough to us to have it in our collection in the first place.

Margaret Henrich gave an interesting talk at our January club meeting on the collection of her late in-laws that she and her husband Don Inherited. This collection is from decades ago, before computers.



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WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

VUG

A cavity in a rock, lined with crystals, usually of a different mineral constitution than the enclosing rock. Adj: vuggy. Etymol: Cornish vooga, cavern or cavity. Also spelled [vugh](#).
Synonym of: [bug hole](#), [vogle](#), [vooga hole](#)

GENERAL MEETING: Monday February 14, 2022 doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts by 7:30pm

BOD MEETING: February 5 @ 12 Noon at Mountain Mike’s Pizza 5358 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94521



Cont. from page 1

She described how each specimen is marked with an identifying code and a ID card with all the pertinent information, such as item code, mineral name, chemical formula and location information. Organization was by mineral and specimen size.

Margaret also brought in a great assortment of examples from the collection of varying sizes, plus reference binders and books with hand written notes of the collector's hounding trips.

Margaret discussed how important keeping good records and placing identification numbers on all specimens and ID cards if practical. Thank you for sharing your collection Margaret. *Editors*



Mineral specimen and card from editors collection
Ex. D & M Henrick

A note from the editors

Janelle and I identify each specimen in our collection with an identifying number that corresponds to all other information we have on that specimen. We use 'White-Out' brand fluid, allow to dry, then use a ball point pen to mark the number. (Picture 1)

We then record all information on a free data base that was created by a mineral, fossil and artifact collector. **TriloBase**. (Picture 2-below)

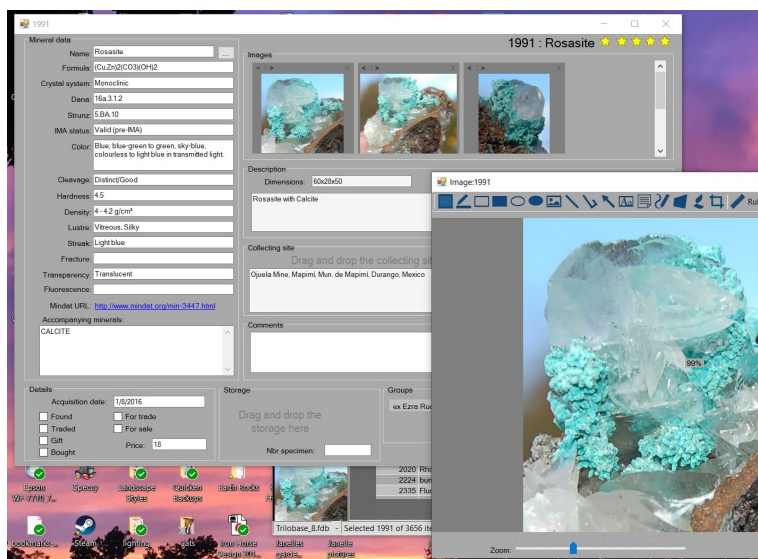


Picture 1

TriloBase allows the user to ID the specimen, space to describe, note weight, additional minerals, collection site, groups (Dealer), comment, date acquired and cost information. You can also associate many photos to the specimen.

TriloBase has a section for fossils and Artifacts with similar information fields and capacities.

We hope this gives you some ideas



Picture 2

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

February is “I love Rocks” month in my book. I love digging them out of the ground. I love holding them in my hand. I love buying them in shops and at shows. I love cutting and polishing them. I love carving them into interesting shapes. I love putting them on display at our shows and monthly meetings. I even love finding things others have carved or cut in thrift stores. Alan Felker insists that, faced with a pile of rocks I will invariably turn over every single one. Actually he is wrong. I still have not made it to the bottom of the 50 cent a pound pile at Gaumer’s Jewelry in Red Bluff.

For those of you who missed Margaret Heinrichs’ talk last month, you missed a spectacular and very useful discussion of how and why you should catalogue your rocks. I did not know that when you label each rock with the type of rock, location found (or bought) and other details it dramatically increases the value of that rock.

Kelly Plumb

MEMBERS HIGH LIGHT— KELLY PLUMB, President

(Editors note— Each month we will highlight a different contributing club member)

I do not know exactly when I first became a rockhound. I think it might be a genetic defect because both of my parents and my maternal grandmother were definitely rockhounds. I remember going on rockhounding trips when I was short enough to have trouble looking out the window of our Greenbriar van. I and my two brothers got to sleep in the van while the parents camped out on the ground. On one of the more memorable trips we woke up to my mother calling for help from her sleeping bag. When we looked out of the van there was a very comfortable skunk curled up on her chest. A ten soon became part of our equipment.

I think the first time I knew for sure I was a rockhound was on an expedition with the Berkeley Gem and Mineral Society. My grandmother had taught me how dinosaur footprint are formed. The animal steps in mud (or whatever) and leaves a footprint. Gradually more dirt or mud gets deposited in the footprint and then over a lot of time the layers get squeezed together and become rock. She demonstrated with various print left in the mud on the Russian river up in Ukiah. I don’t remember where we were but the club was searching for Sulphur crystals and they were digging everywhere insisting that the guide book said the crystals were “here somewhere.” Being a kid I got bored after a while and since we were near a creek I went in search of more “dinosaur footprints.” I found some lovely cracked mud with a racoon print in it. I pulled it up and found a mysterious yellow substance on the bottom so I took it to the adults for identification. They immediately swarmed me and wanted to know where I had found the sulphur crystal. A rockhound was born!

When I was 12 years old my grandmother took me to her garage and taught me how to cut cabochons. We cur a lot of opals. She never told me they were supposed to be difficult to cut so I just did it. My fingernails did show a lot of gouges from the wheels in the beginning. After a while though when you have enough cabochons you start wanting to do something with them. In my 20’s I learned to burn metal (solder) from Alan Revere back in the days when he was teaching out of his garage. Later and for many years he had a very well known school in San Francisco and he did not like to be reminded about those garage lessons.

After that I dropped out for many years. I joined the Castro Valley Club for a while and dropped out again. Eventually a coworker, John Bauer introduced me to the Antioch Lapidary Club and that led to my involvement with the Contra Costa Gem and Mineral society. The rest as they say, is history.

Kelly Plumb

Mineral of the Month

Wulfenite (Not WOLFenite)

The mineral name “Wulfenite” was not the first name given to this special mineral. In 1772, a mineralogist named Ignaz Edler von Born (left) named the mineral that we know as Wulfenite “Plumbum spatosum flavo-rubrum.” This is a Latin name. “Plumbum” means “lead.” “Flavo-rubrum” means “Yellow-red.” “Spatosum” is a very old word used to describe clear, glassy crystals. When they are all put together, this long, Latin name means “Yellow-red lead crystals.”



In 1845, it was renamed by Wilhelm Karl von Haidinger. He named it “Wulfenite” in honor of Franz Xavier von Wulfen

Diamond Dan Publications.



Physical Properties

Color: Red, reddish-orange, orange, orange-yellow, yellow, grey, brown, green and blue (rare).

Crystal System: Tetragonal

Cleavage: Imperfect

Fracture: Brittle, Conchoidal

Hardness: 2.5 - 3

Luster: Adamantine, Resinous

Streak: Yellowish-white

Specific gravity: 6.5 - 7.5



Mineral pictures from editors collection



FEBRUARY BOD MEETING

The Board of Directors met at the Roundtable Pizza on the Port Chicago Highway at 11 am 1/7/2022. Due to the time of the meeting many board members were unable to attend so the meeting time and place will be adjusted to fit more members' schedules. The next meeting will be at 12:00 noon on Saturday February 5th at the Mountain Mikes' Pizza Parlor 3501 Clayton Road in the same shopping Center as the Centre Concord.

Terry Caskey asked to see the financial report for the show. Mike Hopkins only had partial figures as Vikki Hotopp had not finished with the calculations. We did about the same as or better than previous years, but the Centre Concord wants to raise our rent significantly for the upcoming year. Options were discussed for ways to increase or show revenue. Options included adding more dealers, possibly in the food court and back room exhibitor display area. During our November show tumbled quartz from Gary Casillas (a former member) were popular with the kids as their free rock.

Possible presenters for our monthly meetings including the Benitoite Kid were discussed. No business was conducted because there was no quorum at the meeting.



CLUB DUES ARE NOW DUE

Please note that members in arrears of their 2022 dues must bring their dues up to date by end of month or they will be dropped from the rolls and no longer receive bulletins. No reapplication fee if they renew before the end of the month. (Bylaws 2019)

UPCOMING SHOWS

February 12-13, 2022 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show
1201 West 10th St., Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
Admission: \$6
Contact: edysnyder@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 26-27, 2022 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA
900 Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo, CA
Spring Bling 2022
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM both days
Contact: (510) 377-4545
Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

No Upcoming Field Trips

Please let me know if there is any place you would particularly like to go or any special types of rocks you want to look for.

New Property Donations

Our club has recently received a number of donations of lapidary equipment. We are happy to accept used, but still usable donations from folks who no longer need it or have inherited it from older rock hounds. We also accept collections of mineral specimens, cabochon or jewelry.

We received an older Genie cab making machine. It was in need of some cleanup and a new power cord. It has good grinding and polishing wheels. We will keep this machine for use in a future shop that we hope to have.

We also had a faceting machine donated by Kyle Hunter, a young man who was a member of our club when he was in High school. He has gone on to be an expert in mineral collecting and dealer, especially Benitoite. The machine is an early model Graves Faceting machine. It would be a great addition to a future shop.

A few weeks ago there was a posting on our club FACEBOOK page for some equipment that had been inherited. The poster turned out to be from a spouse of a member of our club from many years ago who made jewelry. The equipment is in great shape. There's a vacuum casting machine, a centrifugal casting machine, a high temperature oven and some grinders and polishing wheels. We will save most of this for future use.

Terry Caskey, Property Chair

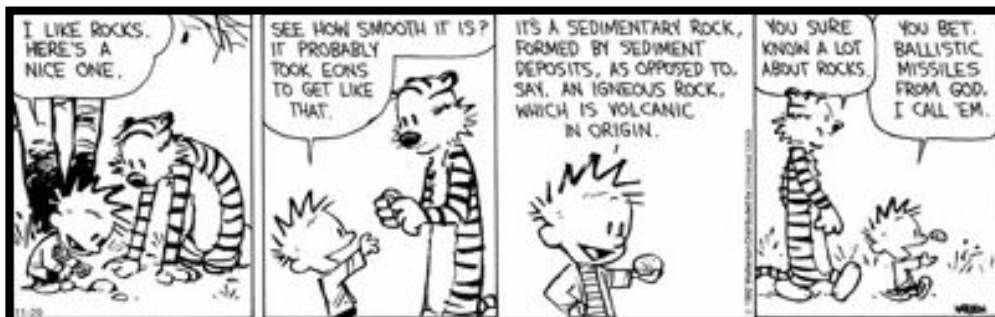
FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

A few years ago we had an all comers evening of sharing our favorite item from our collections. This month we will revive this event while we wait for the weather to warm up so we can get back out there..

Please bring a favorite item from your rock collection, favorite yard rock, jewelry piece or historical mining artifact.

If you you have an item that needs ID other members will be try to help you.

We will open the floor for you to tell the story. No, you do not need to speak, please write a short description so everyone can also enjoy your favorite.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY'S

Wishing you a wonderful and healthy Birthday!

February 2022 Birthdays :

Robert Rigor, Jr.	2/13
Cheri Elliott	2/19
Donna Albrecht	2/26

February Anniversaries :

Michael and Janelle Hopkins	2/16 (20th anniversary)
Christine Henningson	2/20



If you are current member and do not see your birthday or Anniversary listed, please email so I can update my record. –Thank you, Membership Chair: Taylor Thompson dreambug1157@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 BOD Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Antioch Club Gem & Rock Show
13 Antioch Club Gem & Rock Show	14 General Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
27 Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society	28					

Holidays and Observances: 14: Valentine's Day, 21: Presidents' Day

Wiki Calendar

CCMGS 2022 BOARD MEMBERS

2022 Elected Officers:

President:

Kelly Plumb
(510) 693-9075 kelly-plumb900@yahoo.com

1stVicePresident/Programs:

2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:

Secretary:

Karen Oliver

Treasurer:

Vikki Hotopp (925) 566-8588

Federation Director:

Dick Pankey
(925) 439-7509 dickpankey@juno.com

2022 Appointed Officers:

Annual Show Chair:

Mike Hopkins Mike@diablorocks.com

Display:

Cheryl Morgan
cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com

Librarian:

Caryl Taraldson

Membership:

Taylor Thompson

Newsletter Editor:

Mike & Janelle Hopkins Mike@diablorocks.com

Past President:

Donna Albrecht donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

Property:

Terry Caskey

Publicity:

Mike Hopkins Mike@diablorocks.com

Hospitality:

Vikki Hotopp (925) 566-8588

Sargent of Arms:

Naomi Morgan

Web Master:

Johanna Fenton johfenton@yahoo.com

Face Book Page:

Mike Hopkins Mike@diablorocks.com

VALLEJO GEM & MINERAL SHOW



February 26-27, 2022

56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

February 26-27 Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall
900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo CA

Adults \$6.00 Children Under 12 Free
Return Admission On Sunday Free With Receipt or Hand Stamp

\$1.00 Off With This Card - FREE PARKING

Wheel of Fortune, Geode Cutting, Grab Bags, Hourly Drawings, Demonstrators, Silent Auction

Tickets at Door Only - No Online Tickets Info: vigems.com





UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Saturday February 5, 2022 at 12 noon Location: Mountain Mike's Pizza
5358 Clayton Road, Concord

General Meeting

Monday, January 10 doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was formed in 1950 to encourage the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts, and field collections.

General meeting on the second Monday of each month at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA 94521 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Rd. and Balham Dr. next to Clayton Valley Bowl.)

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
PO Box 842, Concord, CA 94522-0842

FIRST CLASS
Member of American and California
Federation of Mineralogical Societies

We're on the web!
www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org

We're on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the
Contra Costa Mineral
and Gem Society

Editors:
Janelle & Michael
Hopkins

Send reports/articles/
pictures by the 25th of
the month to:

mike@diablorocks.com

Exchange bulletins are
welcome. Please give
credit for material re-
printed.