



Diablo Diggins

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Aug 2023

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DIABLO DAN EDITION!

We Are going to Pan like good, old Dan!

General Meeting

Monday, Aug 14th 6:30 PM Endeavor Hall Hoyer Hall Clayton, CA. 6pm.

Speaker Dale Myer and John Gennrich of East Bay Prospectors will be discussing and demonstrating how to pan for gold for both the experiences and inexperienced 49-ers. This is a very dynamic local club. **Their website is <https://ebprospectors.com/>** These folks have demonstrated at our shows, share our concerns of accessing hunting/panning sites, and like us, enjoy to collect and grow our hobby. If you have your own pan, or some collected gold nuggets bring them for show and tell.

A few notes beyond our presentation. Our show is looming, and it is time to step up and volunteer. Our annual show not only informs the public about our hobby and our interests, it raises funds for our club activities. To be blunt, the show will not happen unless everyone is a part of it. So please, let Mike know how you are going to help out.

Snacks**Those asked to bring snacks in Aug are....** Richard, Perucho,,Kelly Plumb,, Bob Rigor, ,Alan Robbins, Barbara Roderick, Lyle Rossler, Edith Sandberg, ,Bill Schaub, Suzanne Sears and Howard Shamy

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

**“We Dig Rocks”
1. Since 1950**

Gold Panning 101

Schedule Change

Take Note!

Our annual auction has been moved to the October meeting.



Looking for gold is a very old human activity and the basic technology need not be very complicated. To get started all you really need are a shovel and a gold pan. Additional equipment will make you a more efficient panner, but are not need to start.

So will any pan do?

The answer to that question is no. Every gold panner, aka prospector has a gold pan, but not every pan is a gold pan. In the days of mining booms, gold miners would use just about any pan, but not very pan or pie plate will do a good job. In the early days of prospecting in this country, the pan was commonly called the "gold dish." Many prospectors have carved his own from a large block of wood. It didn't take many sophisticated tools to make a wooden pan—just a jackknife to do the rough carving, which could then be "sanded" smooth with gravel from a stream bed.

Cow horns were also used to make gold pans. Carefully slit lengthwise, and then steamed until it was soft enough to be worked, the horn was opened out and shaped into a shallow dish suitable for panning. In the old days the "gold dish" was the only means available to the small miner and prospector for the separation of gold.

An effective pan is round, flat bottomed with even sloping sides> The sides have little ridges, known as riffles, to hold heavier objects then the sand. Current technology makes them light weight, (plastic) usually, 12 to 14 inches in diameter and in colors that make gold nuggets easier to spot (black or dark green)

Where to pan

The first step of gold panning is to pick a spot to pan. Location is everything. Find a stream or river that is deep enough to be able to completely submerge your gold pan. You also want to make sure the location you choose has fast enough moving water to carry away the muddy water you will be creating. If you can find a place like this, and it happens to have a big rock near by, take a seat on that rock. You will be a lot more comfortable in the long run.

Only pan on private property with permission. Public lands may allow gold panning with a permit.

Fill your pan

The second step is place the material you wish to sort the gold out of, (if there is gold) in the pan. It is strongly recommended that the pan be between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$'s full. Submerge the pan under moving water and stir the contents with your fingers to remove items that easily float, like leaves and sticks. If it floats, it is not gold. Mixing the gravel with your fingers sorts the heaviest material to the bottom of your pan, and among the heavy may be the gold. Pick out any larger rocks, washing off any mud in the pan. If they are not gold, or something else you want to keep, throw it away. It is a Leaverite, a leave it right there. Swirl the pan in a circular motion to sort the heavier stones to the bottom. When the smaller gravel is left shake the pan from side to side. By doing this, you are helping the heavier material to continue settling at the bottom of the pan. Don't be afraid to shake the gold pan vigorously to settle the material. Just be careful not to spill the gravel you want to wash. Continue to remove large rocks that you come across. Return to swirling the material around in the gold pan in a circular motion, keeping your pan just under the surface of the water. By doing this, the lighter gravel comes to the surface while the heavier minerals and gravel sink to the bottom of the pan. Now you should be able to see the lighter sand and gravel on the surface.

Time to wash the light material out. Tilt your pan forward as you rotate it and allow the lighter sand and gravel to wash out over the front edge. Be sure the riffles are at the front of the gold pan and the material is washing out over them so they can begin to help trap the gold. Keep doing this until only a small amount of the lighter material is left along with the heavier black sands.

Take the gold pan out of the stream but leave about an inch of water covering the material. Carefully swirl the material around in the pan. If you happen to see any gold at this point, carefully take them out. Place the pan back in the water and repeat this process, gently washing away any more of the lighter material left in the pan. Remove the pan keeping about an inch of water in above the remaining material. Tilt the pan & shake the heavier material to one side of the pan. When the black sand is on one side, give the pan a couple more shakes. Gently swirl the remaining water to take a layer of sand off the top. You may start to see gold flakes in the black sand. Keep washing off the black sand carefully till all that is left is the gold. Carefully remove that gold from your pan.

Do not pan..ic

Panning is really an easy skill to learn, but like all skills, learning that skill requires practice. Dale and John from the local East Bay Prospectors will be at our club meeting demonstrating and answering questions. Trying, not this article, are the best way to learn.



<https://www.goldrushnuggets.com/prforgoonblm.html>

https://www.instructables.com/How_to_Pan_For_Gold/

<https://rockseeker.com/how-to-pan-for-gold/>



Display Competition

In July we had two winners, Donna Albrecht won both the Professional with Flash Jasper and the Cab of the Month with a popcorn Blue Lace Agate. Kelly Plumb won the Design of the Month with a wire wrapped blue stone. The shape of the month for August is a real challenge, a triangle. Good Luck.



Summer Rock Shows

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

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

A "CO-OP MEMBER" FIELD TRIP TO FALLON NV

Sep. 15,16,17, 2023 South of Fallon, NV
Presented by El Dorado & Nevada County Mineral and Gem

- 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 (Password is needed).
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- All non-CFMS members are required to contact the Field Trip Leader before a field trip for any insurance requirements.

LEADER & CONTACT INFO – John Dolman-land line (530)272-3752, john95670@yahoo.com

MEMBER'S GUESTS – Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Wonderstone, Selenite, Chalcedony Orbs.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE – On Sep.15, at 8:00 am., Day one meet the leader off of US-Route 50, 11 mi. South of Fallon, NV. at Grimes Point Archaeological site 8:00 am., sharp!

On Sep.16 & 17th, Day 2 & 3, meet the leader at the same spot as day one at 8:00 am. A 4 X 4 is needed this day for the Selenite & or Chalcedony orbs!

MEET – South of Fallon, NV. at Grimes Point Archaeological site 8:00 am., sharp!

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP – US-Route 50, 11 mi. South of Fallon, NV.

VEHICLE REQ'S – 4 X 4 is best.

CAMP/FACILITIES – Vault toilets at Grimes Point, squirrel=5"rnd. X 8" deep holes in the field areas.

TOOLS – hard rock type= Safety glasses, leather gloves, chisels, 3 lb hammer, scoop screens, classifier screens, buckets, bags.

SAFETY CONCERNS – The risk of encountering Rattlesnakes is real but very low. And personal falls are more possible.

CLIMATE/WEATHER – Check weather beforehand could be very warm to hot. Bring at least one gallon of water pre-day for each person, lunch, and snacks
CLOTHING – Dress in layers, bring sunscreen.

OTHER REMARKS – If you plan to attend, you must contact the field trip leader, John Dolman, before Sep. 12, 2023.

FEE'S – None

CFMS Spring Director's Meeting and Convention

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

The big event each year for the CFMS is the annual Show and Convention. This year's event was held in Lodi, CA and was put on by the Federation. Typically, a society or a group of societies will host this event but since no society step up the Federation hosted this event. The Lodi Grape Festival Grounds was a great place for the show - 1 large, air condition buildings for the dealers, displays, kid's activities, silent and more; a lot to see and a lot to do. The Director's Meetings and banquet were held in adjacent building, and only 50 yards from the RV camping area. Since we sold our trailer we stay in a motel. It is a great time when people from California, parts of Nevada and parts of Arizona get-together to share ideas and conduct the business of the Federation. It is a concentrated time of committee reports, election of officers, financial reports and more. It is at the fall meeting that we approve the budget, and elect and install officers for the coming year. The weekend of the Directors meeting is also the time for many committee meetings and it is often the only time we see many of the other officers, chairmen and committee people from around the state. Fortunately, most of us have email these days, which really helps in conducting the workings of the Federation.

The main purpose the banquet on Saturday evening was to recognize the participation and achievements of our members in the many aspects and work of the Federation. Trophies were presented for case competition; bulletins, editors, and articles; web masters and websites; Jr. Achievement award; All American Club

Saturday morning registration for the Directors' meeting started at 8:00. I go early to meet and greet old friends from around the state that I typically see only a few times a year. The meeting started at 9:00.

Directors' Meeting highlights:

- Only 36 societies were represented and 5 officers but we had a quorum.
- The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge to the Flag, the Invocation and the In Memoriam to recognize departed members. Each society is given an opportunity to give the names of departed members from their society.
- There were no delinquent society no new member applications.
- No society volunteered the 2023 Convention and Show so it will be put on by the Federation at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, CA. At this time plans for the 2023 show are pending.
- The Ventura G&MS will host 2024 AFMS in conjunction with the CFMS Convention and Show. More info to come.
- There were no entries in the CFMS All American Club. This is a great competition where the society prepares a scrapbook of the year's activities and accomplishments. CCM&GS has not entered since 2003. We have a strong, active and involved society and could score well. We just need someone willing to assemble our book.
- Details for Earth Science Studies at Camp Paradis were announced. There will not be a session at **Zyzzx**.
- All 3 of the CFMS Cab Cases were at this year's show.

- The CFMS society insurance is renewed each year in October but the societies (CCM&GS) do not pay their dues until the following year. This makes sure we have insurance for our show in November.
- The CFMS Endowment Fund is well funded and has strong earnings and donations.
- There were 2 CFMS Scholarships awarded in 2022 but there will be no scholarships' because a local societies did nominate honorees. No honoree = No scholarships. The \$2000 CFMS Scholarships go to undergraduate students. The CFMS Scholarship fund has over \$106,142 available for scholarships but can not be awarded unless a local society (our society?) nominates an honoree to help select and present a scholarship to an undergraduate student. CCM&GS can nominate an honoree. There are sufficient funds for scholarships but they can only be given out by an honoree nominated by a CFMS society. The CCM&GS may nominate an honoree (or more) to recognize the service of one of our members to education. CCM&GS has only has only honored 1 member in over 40 years.
- The AFMS Scholarship fund started in 1965 and now in 2023 has awarded over \$2Million in scholarships.
- Over the last many years the CCM&GS has been very negligent in recognizing the effort and accomplishments of our members. We need to take advantage of the many CFMS and AFMS programs to recognize and honor these members. Detail in up-coming issue of the Diablo Diggins.
- At the close of the meeting I started to report on the demise of the Stamp Program when Colleen McGann the Federation Director from the Peninsula G&G yelled out "Stop the presses!" She had recently attended the NFMS Federation meeting, they also have a Stamp Program and extended an offer to CFMF to participate with them. I will get more information and details and report back to you and the CFMS.

The CFMS Newsletter is available on line at www.cfmsinc.org. I hope that you take the time to read it or at least scan through it. There is something of interest for all of us.

If you want to know more about the CFMS and this recent directors meeting I have the complete meeting packet that has the agenda, minutes of the June 2023 meeting, committee reports, Treasurer's report and other Federation business. I will have it available at the next few Board meetings and general membership meetings or give me a call.

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