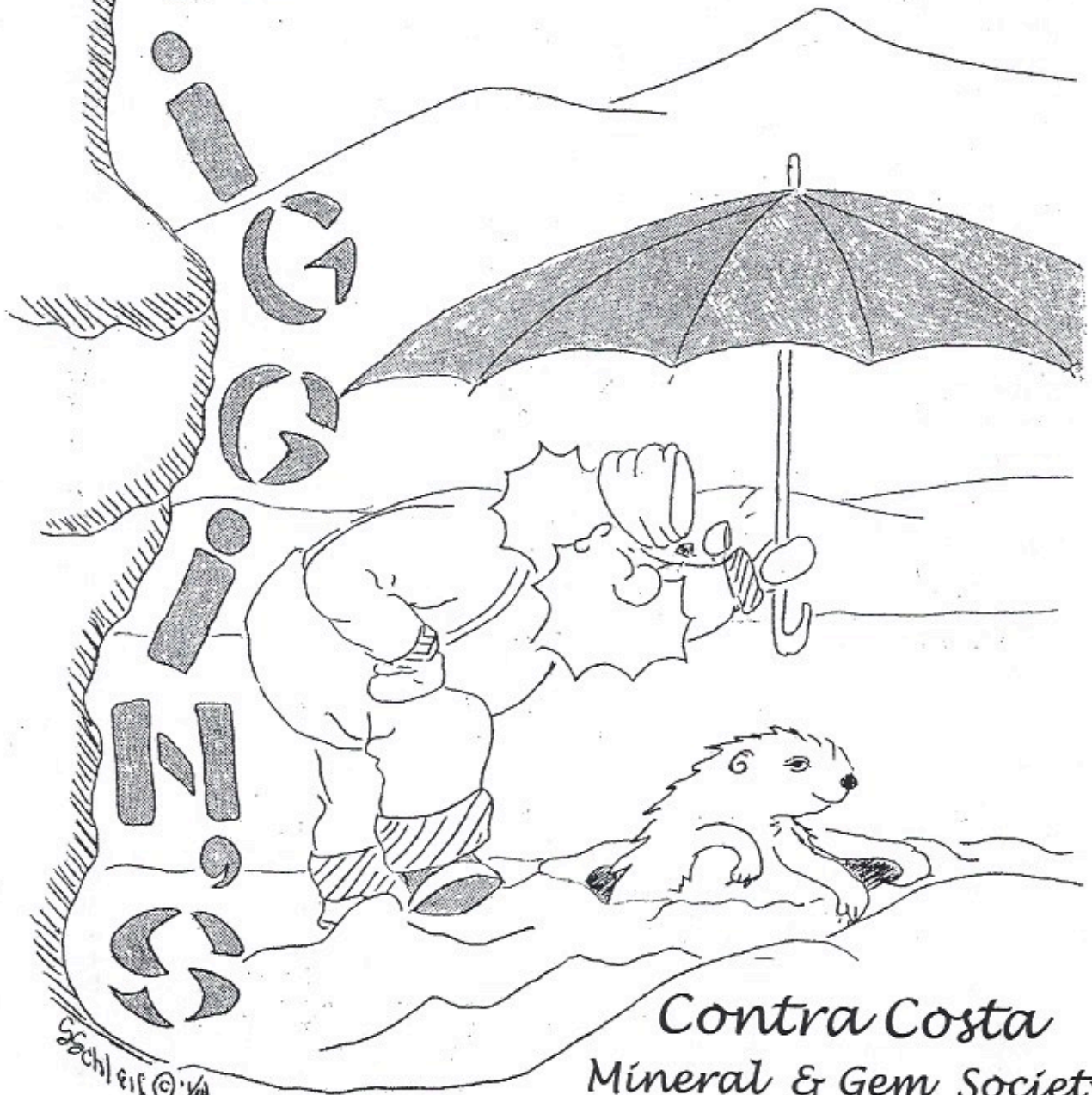


# Diablo



*Contra Costa  
Mineral & Gem Society*

Contra Costa County, California

February 2005

## Contents

CLUB ACTIVITIES	
.. President's Message .....	2
.. February Program & Refreshments.....	2
.. Meeting Stone Display .....	3
.. Membership, Birthdays & Anniversaries..	3
.. Our Educational Programs .....	8
.. Education Through Sharing Award .....	8
.. CCMGS Board and Committees .....	15
.. Board Meeting Minutes.....	5
.. General Meeting Minutes.....	7
FIELD, STATE, AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
.. Field Trips .....	4
.. Field Trip Chairman's Report .....	4
.. Bob Cranston, In Memoriam.....	4
.. CFMS Shows .....	9
.. AFMS Scholarship Fund.....	10
.. CFMS Endowment Fund.....	10
.. Past Presidents Recognition .....	10
.. Wanna be on TV?.....	11
.. CFMS Roseville Show Speakers.....	11
.. Museum Corner.....	12
.. History Channel Features Barstow.....	13
.. Safety First .....	13

## February 11 General Meeting

### Program

**Barrie Bieler** will give our February program, with a slide presentation on *mass wasting*, the geologic trends and processes of land mass erosion.

**Lee McIlvaine**, Program Chair

### Refreshments

Jane Holcomb  
Glen Hubbard  
Jim & Teresa Hurd  
Mary Jernigan  
Sam Johnston



### Editor's Notes

Please provide March  
newsletter input by.....  
**Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**Sue Zabaldano**, Editor

## President's Message

Did you all enjoy the **Thunderegg** presentation by **John Stockwell** last month? Thank you **Lee McIlvaine** for inviting John to our meeting. How many of you checked your collections for some of the features he discussed? I know I did. I've had a nice hollow **geode** on my display case for many years...have called it a geode to everybody who asked about it...but now after closer examination, I see it's really a hollow **Thunderegg**. A **Geoidal Thunderegg** to be precise.

Well, we've almost made it through the winter again. The annual migration of CCM&GS rockhounds to exotic places (meaning warm, dry, and rock-filled) like **Avi, Burro Creek, Quartzsite, Wiley's Well, and Tucson** began several weeks ago and will be in full stride by the end of January. Soon after the rockhounds return in early to mid February, we can anticipate the return of warmer weather and longer days. With any luck, the collecting will be good and plentiful, and many wonderful **Show & Tell** items will begin showing up at our monthly meetings. Please bring in your Items of Interest for the monthly meetings.

**Kim** and I will be heading off to Tucson ourselves for the first two weeks of February. While we're there we hope to bump into **Sam and Hazel Woolsey, Matt and Ann Matthews, and Bruce Naylor** and any other CCM&GS member who might be hanging around looking for a good bargain.

Hope everybody has safe journeys and I look forward to seeing all of you at our February 11 General Meeting.

**Dave Kleesattel**, President

### Duaine Eggleston - Our Treasured Teacher

Duaine passed away in early January. He had been with the Contra Costa M&G Society for many years, and was responsible for influencing many of our current members to join the club through his extensive lapidary and jewelry classes. Not only a "staunch old-timer," Duaine is fondly remembered for always being there, always ready to help a student, to provide that added nudge of confidence that we all need to succeed. We will miss you, Duaine.

# Meeting Display

## JANUARY DISPLAY WINNERS

CABS - PRO

Joe Yarbrough

Jim Bufton

Barrie Bieler

Lee King

Saganite ☺

Black Rock agate

Silicified guarite and gold

Buffalo Meadows agate

SHAPE OF THE MONTH

Mary Bufton

Joe Yarbrough

Rhodocrosite (fan) ☺

Moss agate

There were no Novice or Faceted entries this month. Yet, a big thanks to all members for voting - from the count, we really are getting a very good number of people interested in the displays.

Now - this month. You got to have HEART. Nothing but a ROCK HEART for the Shape of the Month for February. So, let's get them rocks beating!

## FEBRUARY CAB SHAPE: ♥ HEART ♥

John Owen, Display

## Updates, Notes, Hints and Tips

### The Largest Known Geode

Discovered in Rio de Sul, Brazil weighed about 70,000 pounds. Its length was 33 feet, diameter 10 feet one way and 16.5 feet the other. The interior was completely lined with amethyst crystals. After being broken up, it provided tons of amethyst crystals and many fine gemstones. One 400-lb. section of the geode is at the Smithsonian.

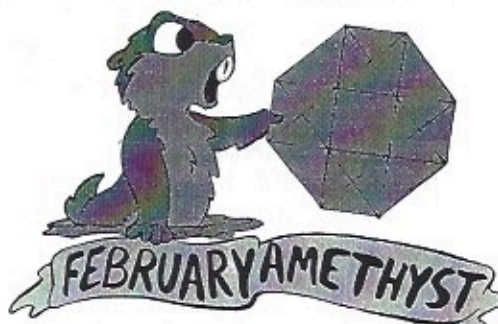
[From *Marin Society Tumbler*, via *The Golden Frog* and *American River Currents* 10/2003, via *Rock Chips* 12/2004, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

### Chalk - Not Just for Children

Wipe a piece of chalk over your jeweler's files - it keeps the files from clogging, and you can blow it off. Toss a piece of charcoal or chalk into your tool box - it keeps your tools rust-free. Put a piece in your jewelry box - tarnish is caused by sulfur gases, which are absorbed by the chalk.

[From *Rock Chips* 10/2004, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

## February



## Membership

### Birthdays

Georgia Tull	2/01
Charlotte Bochra	2/09
Maxine Cameron	2/10
Ana Virginia Guzman	2/19
Jeanie Russo	1/28

### Anniversaries

Glen Hubbard	2/06
--------------	------

This is the final request for 2005 Membership dues. Those members who have not paid their dues by February 15 will be in jeopardy of not having their names on the roster and may not receive the *Diablo Diggin's* newsletter. Please send your dues to **Kim Kleesattel**, Membership Committee Chair.

There were no new members voted in this month; however, we have received several applications for new members that will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Kim Kleesattel  
2361 Rockne Drive  
Concord, CA 94518

**Kim Kleesattel**, Membership

# F i e l d T r i p s

**DON'T ATTEND A FIELD TRIP WITHOUT  
NOTIFYING THE TRIP LEADER IN ADVANCE!**

**Feb. 26 BLM, So. Inyo Mountains  
Cerro Gordo, CA** This trip explores the ecology, geology, mining activity and history of the Southern Inyo mountains, with stops at Little Lake, Lone Pine, Olancho, and Keeler. See the BLM site at [www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/geologytrips.html](http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/geologytrips.html) or the co-sponsoring Buena Vista Museum of Natural History [www.sharktoothhill.com](http://www.sharktoothhill.com), or call Dr. Gregg Wilkerson (661) 391-6081, [gregg\\_wilkerson@blm.gov](mailto:gregg_wilkerson@blm.gov). A flyer and registration info on all BLM field trips is available at the meetings.

**Mar. 5 CO-OP Meeting & Auction  
Sheridan, CA** Guests are more than welcome to attend. Plan on lunch and a speaker, as well.

**Mar. 11 - 12 Old Mojave Road  
Needles to Baker, CA** BLM trip (see Feb. 26)

**Mar. 26 NBFT Spring Meeting  
Pittsburg, CA** Hosted by the Antioch Lapidary Club and Contra Costa M&GS. Contact Dick Pankey for details.

**Apr. 9 Zzyzx Open House  
Zyzyx, CA** (See *CFMS Shows* column.)

**Apr. 22 - 24 Mojave Desert Sym.  
Zyzyx, CA** BLM trip (see Feb. 26)

**May 6 - 8 Snyder's Pow Wow  
Valley Springs, CA** Lots of dealers, field trips, Ye Old Timers potluck and auction, NBFT potluck and much, much, much more! Not to be missed! Details later.

More information, fliers and details are available from **Dick Pankey** at the meetings or call (925) 439-7509; e-mail me at [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com).

## Field Trip Chairman's Report

This is a slow time of year for field trips, and is a great time for planning trips. If you have any ideas for a trip, or would like to plan and lead a trip or outing, please let me know. I would be glad to help in any way that I can.

**Dick Pankey**, Field Trip Chair

## Dig this...

### Bob Cranston

By Dee Holland, CFMS

[From *C.F.M.S. Newsletter*, 02/2005.]

Rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts lost a dedicated friend and advocate for the protection of public lands. **Bob Cranston** passed away on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 from pneumonia.

His total dedication to ALAA was unsurpassed by any one of us who worked toward keeping public lands open to rockhounds. His contacts kept us all informed on all of the many areas of concern. He watched for any closures of public land and pending litigation from all sources that would infringe on our rights to collect on public land.

Bob's interpretation of the government's term "multiple use of public land" was his cornerstone of concern. At earlier meetings of ALAA, everyone waited impatiently for Bob to speak to the concerns of the day. His knowledge of what was happening concerning public lands was invaluable. He spent many hours each day searching websites for coming and pending legislation and possible lawsuits by environmentalists.

Bob served AFMS and ALAA with distinction. There will never be another person as dedicated as Bob to our cause. We have lost our heart and soul today.

## LEWIS AND CLARK UPDATE

The long-awaited AFMS booklet on the *Lewis and Clark Expedition* is now available on the AFMS website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org).

Edited by Brenda Hankins, with lots of research provided by individuals from each of the Regional Federations, the booklet is a great guide for anyone traveling the trail.

Download this booklet for you and your club!



<b>Board Meeting – January 10, 2005</b>
-----------------------------------------

Board Meeting was held at Matt and Ann Matthews home in Martinez, California, on January 10, 2005. Present: **Matt and Ann Matthews, Bob Pevahouse, Dave Kleesattel, John Owen, Mary Hicks, Joanne Caskey, Sam and Hazel Woolsey, Lee McIlvaine, and Bruce Naylor.** Absent: **Mary Bufton, Sharon Neuhauser, Bill McKay, Kim Kleesattel, Dick Pankey.**

**President Dave Kleesattel** called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He introduced **Vice President of Programs Lee McIlvaine,** Education Chair **Joanne Caskey** and member **Bruce Naylor.** Other members present who are leaving old jobs for new are: **Sam Woolsey** moves from **Show Chair** to **Property Chair;** **Hazel Woolsey** moves from **Show Chair Scheduler** to **Historian.**

It was announced that long-time member and educator of Lapidary Arts, **Duaine Eggleston,** passed away recently after a medical procedure. Our sympathies go to Duaine's daughter **Ann.** Members are invited to Duaine's memorial, to be held this Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in the Fire Side Room. The Fire Side Room is adjacent to our regular meeting room.

The minutes for the December Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted as published in the January *Diablo Diggin's* bulletin. Bills were called for; none were presented. It was reported that the post office box is paid for the year 2005. The meeting place at the Presbyterian Church in Concord is paid for six months.

**Federation Director Bob Pevahouse** mentioned the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) assessment needs to be sent by the end of January. This assessment is based on the number of club members on December 31, 2004, at \$1.50 per person for dues and \$5.00 per person for insurance. There were 146 members of the society on December 31. Along with payment and a copy of the

membership list, **Bob Pevahouse** will also send in the 2005 CCMG&S Officer list.

**Sam Woolsey** is the new **Property Chair.** **Glen Hubbard** has done a fine job as **Property Chair** and his efforts have made our club meetings and show activity work well. Sam is ready to take on the challenge of supplying microphones, speakers, extension cords, show cases, and so many more items maintained and organized by the **Property Chair.** The property used at the General Meeting will be picked up from **Glen** in February.

On another note, **Sam** met with **Bill McKay,** the new **Show Chair.** **Bill** will be sending out dealer invitations for the November 2005 show soon.

**NEWS!!!** The organization is looking for a new **Ecology Chair.** Our current Chairman, **Glen MacKenzie,** has diligently kept members up-dated on issues of land use and now he is ready for a change. Thanks to Glen for doing such a fine job during his tenure. We need someone to step forward to assume this function for the club. If you are interested, speak to Dave or Glen to learn more about the duties of this position.

**Historian Hazel Woolsey** reported she is ready to take on the job of **Historian.** She has accepted the records archived by past **Historian, Ron Fray.** Thank you to Ron for keeping the important records of the club's activities.

**Secretary Mary Hicks, Display Chair John Owen,** and **Past President Ann Matthews** did not have reports.

**New Education Chair Joanne Caskey** has taken the busy position over from **Mary Ann King.** Thanks to **Mary Ann** for supporting the club by providing interesting classes. Joanne stated she has a class coming up on February 16 and February 23 at her home. This is a **Beginning class** on gold-filled wire-wrapped jewelry, and the signup sheet will be at the January General Meeting. The **March class** will either

be a glass or beading class. See the January and February bulletins for further details. Joanne requests that you contact her if you have a particular class you might like to teach or attend. She is waiting on a call from **Mr. O' Brian** at the Adult Education School in Pleasant Hill about getting a classroom. There seems to be an opportunity for the club to get a room again at that campus. If not, there will be discussions about using a room at the Pittsburg Adult School location in March. As suggested, Joanne will also see about the availability of classrooms in the city of Martinez. To contact Joanne by e-mail: [diablojojo@comcast.net](mailto:diablojojo@comcast.net).

**Federation Director Bob Pevahouse**, reported on highlights from the CFMS Newsletter; it is full of information. (This newsletter is available for all members by going to the CFMS web site: [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). Mark it as a Favorite so you can easily drop in and see what is going on with the Federation!)

The Scholarship panel is set up to determine the schools to receive funding. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) is selecting only one school per region to receive a scholarship this year.

Anyone interested in an exhibitor workshop to increase their competitive edge should contact **Dee Holland**, CFMS Rules Committee.

There is a **Zzyzz Open House** this year (April 9). There will be a tour of the facility, its history, and plans for the future. Zzyzx is about 50 miles north of Barstow, off I-15. Register if interested. Bob does not know if he is teaching at Zzyzx this year. There will be a Fall activity at Camp Paradise.

There are new slide and video programs in the CFMS library.

The CFMS show will be in Roseville on June 10-12 this year. Bob said that the Saturday Director's meeting at the CFMS show will have gold nuggets for raffle prizes.

**Vice President of Program Lee McIlvaine** discussed the upcoming program "Thunder-

eggs," by **John Stockwell**. Lee saw this presentation about a year ago, liked it and says there will be some Berkeley Hills (blue) mineral specimens to see. Let Lee now if you have ideas of "outside" presenters who can provide new topics. Programs do not have to be strictly "rockhound," but related interesting and/or informative presentations. Lee's e-mail address is [leemcilvaine@yahoo.com](mailto:leemcilvaine@yahoo.com).

**Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel**. For Kim, **Dave** reports no new members but there are about 30 members who have not yet paid the 2005 dues. **DUES ARE DUE!!**

Budget for this year. 2004 **Treasurer Eva Umholtz** had developed budgets for each committee in the past. These will be reviewed and adjusted for the 2005 budget. The Board will adopt the 2005 budget at the March meeting.

New business:

**Gene Holcomb** has resigned the position of **Treasurer**. The club owes Gene a big **Thank You** for stepping in on short notice to replace **Eva Umholtz** when she and husband **Tom** moved out of state shortly before the November show. Gene supported the November show and kept the financial records together during the transition. Member **Bruce Naylor** is the new **Treasurer**, as approved by this board, as of this meeting. He was nominated as **Treasurer**, the motion was seconded and he was approved unanimously. President **Dave Kleesattel** will pick up a new signature card from the bank for updating. Secretary **Mary Hicks** will provide Dave with a copy of the Board minutes from this meeting and an updated Officer and Committee Chair roster at the up-coming General Meeting.

**Treasurer Bruce Naylor** reports that CFMS has offered to photograph specimens at the California State Mineral Museum in Mariposa. Member **Barrie Bieler** has offered to do photography. There are about 13,000 specimens in the collection; of particular interest are the fluorescent specimens and assisting the state in setting up a fluorescent exhibit.

Bruce also reports that **First Vice President of Field Trips Dick Pankey** and he are talking about a field trip to the Middletown area. There is the Manhattan Mine that produced a lot of mercury and other minerals in the area. The mine was also known as the One Shot Mercury Mine. Over 50 minerals have been catalogued from the mine pit. Bay Area Mineralogist may come too. UC Davis is doing graduate environmental studies in the area. Another possible field trip location is Cal Pine's museum in Middletown, south of Clear Lake. Also, a bus takes people up to a geothermal site to see the processing system.

**President Dave Kleesattel** brought up the idea of looking into chartering a bus to take members to such activities as Snyder's Pow Wow in Valley Springs in May. Need to check the insurance coverage to see if there is an additional fee for sponsoring something like this.

**No Board Meeting in February but there will be a General Meeting.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

### General Meeting - January 14, 2005

**President Dave Kleesattel** opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Marlow (Hawkeye) Hicks**. It was announced that long-time member and educator of Lapidary Arts, **Duaine Eggleston**, passed away recently after a medical procedure. Our sympathies go to Duaine's daughter **Ann** and family. The memorial will be this Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in the Fire Side Room.

Thanks was given for **Gene Holcomb's** support for taking on the Treasurer position when **Eva Umholtz** moved away. **Bruce Naylor** is the new Treasurer.

**Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser** announced birthdays and anniversaries as published in the bulletin. Visitors **Merrill Swimy, Tyler Thomson**, and the **Wolter** family: **Frank, Kathleen, Laura**, and **Christopher** were welcomed. **Al Schlieff** gave two door prizes, one a piece of obsidian that member **Charlotte Bochra** got and a piece of petrified wood for a guest.

**Federation Director Bob Pevahouse** announced news of shows and, particularly, the Federation show that will be in Roseville June 10 through 12.

A trip to South America, set up by the Los Angeles County Museum, was announced.

**Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel** had membership cards to hand out and reminded the few members who have not paid to do so.

**Display Chair John Owen** handed out voting slips for the Display table and encouraged members to vote on competition items.

**Member Donal Tompkins** had example letters for members to send in about areas that may be closed for collecting in Utah. **Dave Kleesattel** announced that a new **Ecology Chair** is needed. Consider volunteering.

**1st Vice President of Program Lee McIlvaine** introduced the program, "Thundereggs," by **John Stockwell**. Lee saw this presentation about a year ago. Such locations as Lone Hill in San Jose, Berkeley Blue, and others were identified. Mr. Stockwell had interesting mineral specimens for inspection, our members learned some new mineral terms, and the photographs were great.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m., refreshments were enjoyed.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

There will not be an Executive Board & Committee Meeting in February 2005. The next Executive Board & Committee Meeting will be on March 7, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at Matt and Ann Matthews' house.

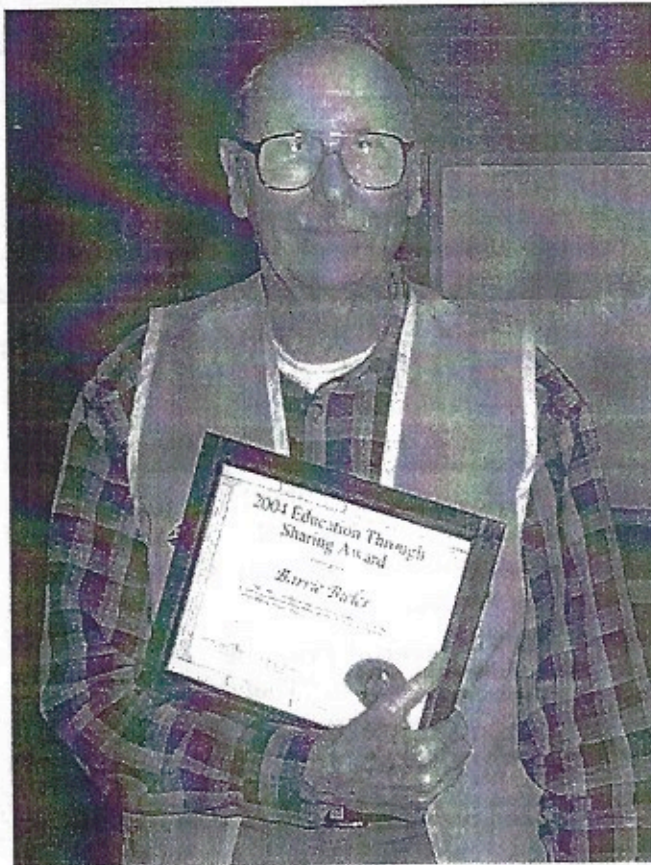
## OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Joanne Caskey, Education Chair

**February Classes:** The Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> earring class is full. There are two spots left for the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> necklace class. Call me (925) 689-2119, if you haven't signed up and want to.

\* These classes are being held at the **Caskey house**, 5161 Myrtle Dr., Concord, and will begin promptly at 7 p.m. We are located between Kirker Pass (Ygnacio Valley Rd.) and Bailey Rd. (Myrtle Dr. begins across the street from the Chronicle Concord Pavillion, and we are about ½ mile north, on the right side of the road – hill side.) Park in the bottom parking area unless you have difficulty walking up a sloping driveway (there are a couple of spots by the garage).

\* **March Classes:** "Copper Enameling Magic with Bob" – stay tuned for more info and a signup sheet at the March meeting.



### Barrie Bieler Awarded "Education Through Sharing"

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society Board of Directors are pleased to announce that member **Barrie Bieler** has been chosen as our Education Through Sharing nominee for 2004.

Barrie has been an active member of our club for many years. He has served as First Vice President - Program Chairman several times and has also been our President.

As a sideline, Barrie has been a teacher of geology, mineralogy, and photography in the local school systems of adults and younger students, although his career was as a scientist for Dow Chemical Company. He has given talks to all ages, visiting various schools.

He has presented many interesting educational programs to our club, as well as other clubs.

Barrie demonstrates faceting at our annual shows, as well as other shows in the area.

We feel Barrie is well qualified for the Education Through Sharing Award.

### How You Look at It

A guy took his girlfriend to her first football game. She remarked, "I liked it, but I couldn't understand why they were attacking each other for 25 cents."

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, everyone kept yelling: "Get the quarter back!"

[From *Breccia* 12/2002 & *Music City Rockette* 07/2004, via *Rocket City Rocks & Gems* 07/2004, via *Rock Chips* 10/2004, Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club]



## CFMS Shows in Our Area

1/1 - 2/28

Quartzsite, AZ

Details are numerous on this popular show and field trip venue. The web site is ready for 2005: [www.quartzsite.com](http://www.quartzsite.com), and also [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org).

2/19 - 2/20

Stockton Lapidary &amp; Mineral Club

54th Annual Earth's Treasures  
San Joaquin County Fairgrounds  
1658 S. Airport Way, Bldgs. 4 & 5, Stockton, CA  
Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4  
Laurie Haines (209) 838-0108, [lhaines99@aol.com](mailto:lhaines99@aol.com)

\* 3/4 - 3/6

M &amp; G Society of Castro Valley

Centennial Hall  
22292 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, CA  
Fri. and Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5  
Ron Miller (510) 538-2397, [mgsqv@yahoo.com](mailto:mgsqv@yahoo.com)

3/12 - 3/13

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA  
Both days: 10-5  
Bud McMillin (209) 527-8000 (WK) or (209) 524-3494 (H), [Bud.McMillin.b7yi@StateFarm.com](mailto:Bud.McMillin.b7yi@StateFarm.com)

3/12 - 3/13

Salinas Rock &amp; Gem Club

Spreckels Veterans Memorial Bldg.  
5th and Llano Streets, Salinas, CA  
Both days: 10-5  
James Bassett (831) 758-5830, [jbmsc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbmsc@sbcglobal.net)  
or Bob Brewer (831) 758-6274

3/19 - 3/20

Calaveras Gem &amp; Mineral Society

Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
Angels Camp, CA  
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4  
Earl Klein (510) 632-9373

- 3/26

North Bay Field Trips Spring Meeting

Hosted by: Antioch and Contra Costa clubs  
Community Presbyterian Church  
200 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg, CA 94565  
Hours: 9:00 a.m. - typically mid-afternoon  
All Contra Costa club members are welcome! Call:  
Dick Pankey (925) 439-7509, [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com)

4/2 - 4/3

Santa Clara Valley G &amp; M Society

Golden 50th Anniversary Show  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Rd., San Jose, CA  
Both days: 10-5  
Frank Mullaney (408) 266-1791, [info@scvngms.org](mailto:info@scvngms.org)

4/9

Zzyzx Open House

Guided tour of the facility, explaining history, flora, and fauna, and the future of the Desert Studies Center. Located approx. 50 miles north of Barstow, off I-15. Register by March 15; forms at General Meeting. Cal Clason (661) 589-4169

4/23 - 4/24

Kern County Mineral Society

Kern County Fairgrounds  
Bakersfield, CA  
Both days: 10-5  
Nichelle Sebresos (661) 809-4705

\* 4/23 - 4/24

Santa Cruz Mineral &amp; Gem Society

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
Center and Church Streets, Santa Cruz, CA  
Both days: 10-5  
Hubert Drake (831) 688-8086, [hmdrake@pacbell.net](mailto:hmdrake@pacbell.net)

\* 5/6 - 5/8

Snyder's Pow Wow

5/7 - 5/8

Reno Gem &amp; Mineral Society

Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall  
1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV  
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4  
Jennifer Rhodes (775) 356-8820

\* 6/10 - 6/12

Roseville Rock Rollers &amp; CFMS

Roseville Gem & Mineral BLAST  
Placer County Fairgrounds  
800 All American City Blvd.  
Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4  
(916) 759-3351 or  
(916) 630-1000  
[www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)



8/5 - 8/7

Orcutt Mineral Society

St. Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA  
Daily: 9-5  
Lucky Virgin (805) 929-4525; [lvirgin@impulse.net](mailto:lvirgin@impulse.net)

There will not be an Executive Board & Committee Meeting in February 2005. The next Executive Board & Committee Meeting will be on March 7, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at Matt and Ann Matthews' house.

## CFMS February News...

### AFMS Scholarship Fund Needs A Boost From Each Club

By Marion Roberts, CFMS President

I have a serious request. As most of you know, each of the six federations are only going to get one instead of the usual two scholarships, due to the theft of funds from the AFMS Scholarship. Other federations are doing different projects to raise money to replace the lost scholarship, which amounts to \$4,000 each. Our total membership is over 9,000. If each club donates \$0.50 per member, we cover our scholarship.

I have spread this idea and been met with a very positive response. I presented this idea to the Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society in December and they got a unanimous approval to send their check. I do hope all other clubs will see this as what our organization is all about and follow their example. If you do send your check, make it out to AFMS Scholarship and in the memo or on an attached stick-it note write "Unrestricted Fund," so the money can be used this year. Send it to our representative to the committee:

**Montella Lopez**  
676 Hermitage Place  
San Jose, CA 95134

Let's be the one they are talking about when we hear, "They did it, why don't we."

### CFMS Endowment Fund Needs a Rock From Each Member

By Ray Meisenheimer, Endowment  
Fund Chair

The CFMS Endowment Fund was established in 1987 to provide a steady source of income to financially assist the programs and services that the CFMS provides its members. Only the earnings are available for distribution. Funds come from individual donations, club donations, or memorials for a departed member. Also from fund raising sales. At this time I want to thank all who donated to the Endowment Fund in the past. It is greatly appreciated.

However it is not enough. I urge clubs to think about what the Federation does for clubs, and be generous in donations.

I will have a table or two at the CFMS Show in Roseville, selling items for the Endowment Fund. I need help! I need donations! Some suggestions -- GOOD rough material, polished items, slabs, spheres, cabs, jewelry, minerals and fossils. Anything that we can sell is very welcome

Thank you very much. See you in June.

### Past Presidents Recognition

By Shirley Leeson, Historian

Many of you saw the current collection of items donated by CFMS Past Presidents or their families at the Fall Business Meeting in Fresno. It took up the front part of two eight-foot tables. Since then I have received a note from the family of **Mary Andersen** along with *Mary's Robert's Rules of Order 75th Anniversary Edition* book. I am indebted to **Melanie Andersen** for sending the book. In addition, **Maria Turner** will be donating a pin Mary made for her. Also **Arlene Billheimer** has sent a note saying she will donate an original pin made by **Jessie Chittenden**.

Below is a list of those CFMS Past Presidents whose families we need to contact. If you know a family member of any of these deceased Past Presidents, please contact them and see if they would like to participate.

- **John Melhase** - Jan 1936 - Feb 1938
- **Ernest Chapman** - Feb 1938 - Apr 1940
- **R.O. Diedrick** - 1950 - 1952
- **C.A. Dietrich** - 1952 - 1953
- **Hub Dafoe** - 1954 - 1955
- **W.A. Stephenson** - 1956 - 1957
- **Howell Lovell** - 1958 - 1959
- **Alden Clark** - 1959 - 1960
- **Veryle Carnahan** - 1960 - 1961
- **Jack Donahue** - 1962 - 1963
- **Col. Daniel Mullany** - 1963 - 1964
- **Ennis Scott** - 1964 - 1965
- **LaDocia Ellis** - 1971 - 1972
- **Claude Schapers** - 1973 - 1974
- **Lee Hollinshead** - 1977 - 1978
- **Ellen Schultze** - 1986
- **Bill Aprile** - 1993

### Wanna be on TV?

By Stephen Blocksage, Publicity and Public Relations Committee

With the advent of the reality show, we begin to wonder just what the public wants to see. As I think of our hobby, does it deserve to be amongst the new reality shows – and the answer is a definite yes. Think of all the people who want to stand in a rockhound's shoes and perhaps don't even know it. They would love to be digging or exploring where the next gem or great specimen would be unearthed, not only to share in the excitement but the adventure.

Off-roading and camping remain popular pursuits – add in the possibility of hanging out with some really great people, like you, and you've got a winning combination.

*California's Gold* with **Huell Howser** specializes in going to places not well known in California, yet represent the uniqueness and diversity of California. As you might expect, 50% of his shows are about geologic features and mining. Ordinary people are featured talking about their knowledge and enjoyment of the site or how it works or its history.

In light of this I have invited *California's Gold* to do shows on rockhounding, but one in particular about Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert. Its unique history as army post, stage stop, religious retreat, and finally a desert studies center (and on occasion lapidary school) make it an ideal show. Most everyone who has made the trip to Vegas has seen the sign just this side of Baker, and perhaps wondered what the letters mean and perhaps how to pronounce the word, if it is a word.

Unfortunately, this upcoming year 2005 will be the last time we will be able to hold our week of fun and learning in April at Zzyzx because of the needs of the universities that own the site and their students. They have offered other weeks, but those would be climate-disadvantaged times. So the Federation is in search of an alternate site somewhere in the eastern-southern desert part of California.

Although Zzyzx was the primary offering, it has long been my intention to offer the Gem Mine site of the state gem, Benitoite, as a place to do a show. I immediately got Mr. Howser's attention several years ago – if I could arrange a show there; unfortunately, the owner hit a vein of gems and has been working the mine since. Of course, he is unwilling

to allow filming at such a secure site or call attention to the mine unless it is no longer workable.

Other sites were the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for Obsidian, Clear Creek for Jadeite, and Jade Cove for Nephrite jade, or perhaps the first viable coal deposit in California in Stone Canyon and its associated railroad, and finally the Tonopah and Tidewater railroad and the Dumont dunes and Sperry wash. The village of New Idria, where much of the Mercury mined in California originated. The story of poppy jasper mine might be of interest as well.

So how can you be involved? Do you have anecdotal information, pictures, or historical news clippings of any of these areas? Perhaps a field trip where you found something special or an area with historical interest associated with our hobby. As you can see, there is grist for many exciting and interesting shows featuring rocks and rockhounding.

So, if you have something, we'll submit it, but be prepared to talk about it and be seen at least state-wide if not nationwide. Perhaps your 15 minutes of fame, but also the Federation's, because we will be cited in the credits and hopefully that will generate interest in our hobby.

If you have something to share, please contact me at [similite@aol.com](mailto:similite@aol.com) or Dick Pankey at [dickpoankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpoankey@juno.com). It should be noted that there are many people vying for time on the TV and, since this is free, the show is selective and may not immediately run a particular idea, so be patient.

### Roseville Update

By Gloria Tomczyk, Show Chair for the Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast

February is upon us; hopefully the winter storms have not been a problem for you. As the year marches on, the Roseville Rock Rollers and the CFMS 2005 show committees continue to work on putting on a great show. I would like to give you a sneak peak at our growing list of SPEAKERS. The schedule is still being developed with a variety of renowned professionals offering lectures on some very interesting topics.

- METEORITES Many folks find them intriguing to say the least, or maybe you personally have tried your hand at using a metal detector to hunt your own. Whichever the case, **Michael Santos**

will be one of our guest speakers on that very topic all three days of the show.

- **FOSSILS and DINOSAURS** Most of you have encountered them, from time to time, out in the field, museums or at a show. **Dr. Richard Hilton**, Professor at Sierra College, and author of the new book, "*Dinosaurs and Other Mesozoic Reptiles of California*," will be another guest speaker. If you already have his book, bring it with you, as he will be glad to sign it after his talk.
- **MINERALS** **Dr. Jean DeMouthe** from the California Academy of Sciences, will be another guest speaker with two topics: "*Minerals as Medicine*" and "*Minerals of Northern California*." I hear she is excellent!
- **GOLD** We all have it, we all want it, we all try to find it, but where the heck is it and how did it get there? **John Clinkenbeard**, Supervising Senior Geologist with the California Geological Survey, will be our guest for this presentation.
- **MINERALS OF NEVADA** If you missed **Dr. Gregory Ferdock**, co-author of the "*Minerals of Nevada*," at the Mariposa show in 2004, you will have another chance to hear his presentation. He too will be available for book signing.
- **FLUORESCENT MINERALS** They capture our attention in the dark. Ever wonder why they fluoresce? The **Fluorescent Mineral Society of Northern California** will speak on that subject.

This is just a sampling of what we plan to have for the show. I hope that as time draws nearer you will make plans to attend these lectures. For more information and forms, please visit the Roseville Rock Rollers website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com). Hope to see you soon!

### Museum Corner

By Debbie Bunn, Chair, Museum Committee



If you like fossils, one museum you have to see is the Sierra College Natural History Museum. Located in Rocklin (northeast of Sacramento), it has a fine exhibit of local and U.S. fossils, many of them collected by the students and instructors while on class field trips.

There is a case tracing the story of life in fossils from algal balls to primates. Local fossils from the Ice Age were discovered when the Arco Arena was constructed to house the Sacramento Kings. Parts of bison, camels, horse, and other animals excavated are on display.

Also, there is a large log of the famous Eocene Roseville petrified wood.

There is a surprisingly large dinosaur exhibit, including a rare pachycephalosaur skull that I got to help excavate. There are parts of other dinosaurs that have been found in northern California, including a hypsoliphodont leg and a piece of a meat-eating dinosaur found in Granite Bay/Sacramento. You can see parts of a pterosaur found in northern California and a giant turtle.

There are sea mammal fossils, a titanother skull, and a gomphothere. In addition to all the fossils, there is an extensive skull display, from bats to elephants. And stuffed animal heads from around the world. There is a fine mineral display.

Outside there is a labeled nature trail and desert rock garden. Admission to the Sierra College Natural History Museum is free when the college is in session. Special tours can be arranged for groups. For those of you planning to attend the CFMS show in Roseville in June; plan to visit this great little museum located in Sewell Hall at 5000 Rocklin Road in Rocklin, CA, website: [www.sierramuseum.org](http://www.sierramuseum.org).

### More Things to Think Twice About

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

They told me I was gullible... and I believed them!

When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a nail.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

Is it possible to be totally partial?

Thank you, Chuck McKie (Fairfield Lapidary Society)

## On Location:

### The History Channel to Feature Barstow's Desert Search and Rescue Unit

The Barstow Sheriff's station's all-volunteer Desert Search and Rescue Squad will appear in a segment of *Modern Marvels* on The History Channel, airing some time in mid-February with the title: "Desert Tech." The show concentrates on the technology people use to survive in desert climates. Members of the Sheriff's reserve unit are also featured.

The show emphasizes the planning, structuring, and equipment required to mount a search for injured or lost desert visitors. Barstow's S&R Squad is one of few units in the state, and the only one in San Bernardino County that handles mineshaft rescues. Thirty volunteers and deputies deployed ten ATVs, a fully functional command post, a newly modified sandrail, and a horse to participate in the S&R reenactment.

These volunteers work for free, typically pay for a lot of their own equipment, and remain on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help folks like us rockhounds.

[Excerpted from the BLM Barstow web site.]

## Safety First

The Shell Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile (cell) phones ignited fumes during automobile fueling operations.

In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to the face when fumes ignited as he answered a call while refueling a car.

And in the third case, an individual suffered severe burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in his pocket, rang while he was fueling his car.

You should know that:

- Mobile phones can ignite fuel or fumes!
- Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition.
- Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boats, etc.
- Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust; i.e., solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.

To sum it up, here are the Four Rules for safe refueling:

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone – leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling.

If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure that when you get out, you close the door **TOUCHING THE METAL** before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way, the static from your body will discharge before you ever remove the nozzle.

[Excerpted from *Mineral Memos* 09/2003, Antioch Lapidary Club, Antioch, CA, via *Napa Gems*, 11/2004, Napa Valley Rock and Gem Club]

## Murphy's Law for Field Trips

A location for petrified wood will yield geodes.

If a large specimen is uncovered, the tools necessary to remove it will be at home in the garage. If tools are available, it will be discovered that the specimen is too large to fit into the vehicle – but only after it is dragged over and placed near the vehicle.

Any specimen chipped to determine quality will promptly shatter, and closer examination will reveal that it was a real dandy.

[From *Chips* 03/1997, via *Pegmatite* 09/2004 and *Tumbler* 10/2004, Marin Mineral Society]

**Rockhounds on the Prowl**

- Ten happy rockhounds set out,  
Just feeling fine.  
One forgot directions,  
Hence, proceeding nine.
- Nine eager rockhounds  
Hurried, not to be late.  
One ignored a stop sign.  
Their numbers shrunk to eight.
- Eight determined rockhounds.  
The sun blazed down from Heaven  
So hot, one had a heat stroke.  
Thus, there were seven.
- Seven thoughtful rockhounds  
Digging with their picks.  
A flying rock engaged one's eye,  
And there remained – six.
- Six silent rockhounds  
Working hard, did strive  
To climb a cliff, but one lost foot  
And, quickly, there were five.
- Five wary rockhounds  
A cave went to explore.  
One took no light, nor knew the way,  
So there emerged just four.
- Four worried rockhounds  
A deserted mine did see,  
But failed to note a blasting cap,  
Which blew up, leaving three.
- Three discouraged rockhounds,  
Their plans all askew,  
Went their separate ways to hunt.  
One's still lost, leaves two.
- Two just-plain-scared rockhounds  
Sat feeling quite undone  
Beneath an overhanging rock  
Which gave way, sparing one.
- One dejected rockhound  
Sadly thought, "What fools,  
It's such a crime, not one took time,  
TO LEARN OUR SAFETY RULES."

[From *Napa Gems* 11/2004, Napa Valley Rock and Gem  
Club, via *The Petrified Log* 11/2004,  
via *Tumbler* 04/1999]

**Why DID the Chicken  
Cross the Road?**

- Pat Buchanan  
To steal a job from a decent, hardworking American.
- Dr. Seuss  
Did the chicken cross the Road?  
Did he cross it with a toad?  
Yes! The chicken crossed the road,  
But why it crossed, I've not been told!
- Ernest Hemingway  
To die. In the rain.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.  
I envision a world where all chickens will be free to  
cross roads without having their motives called into  
question.
- Grandpa  
In my day, we didn't ask why the chicken crossed  
the road. Someone told us that the chicken crossed  
the road, and that was good enough for us.
- Aristotle  
It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.
- Karl Marx  
It was an historical inevitability.
- Saddam Hussein  
This is an unprovoked act of rebellion and we are  
quite justified in dropping 50 tons of nerve gas on it.
- Freud  
The fact that you are at all concerned that the  
chicken crossed the road reveals your underlying  
sexual insecurity.
- Bill Gates  
I have just released *eChicken 2005*, which will not  
only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your import-  
ant documents, and balance your checkbook, and  
Internet Explorer® is an inextricable part of  
*eChicken*.
- Einstein  
Did the chicken really cross the road or did the road  
move beneath the chicken?
- Bill Clinton  
I did not cross the road with THAT chicken. What  
do you mean by "chicken?" Could you please de-  
fine "chicken?"
- Colonel Sanders  
I missed one?

[Thank you, Chris Olson, email, 10/2002]



**Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society**

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**GENERAL MEETING:** Second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
 First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, downtown Concord  
 (corner of Salvio and Colfax)  
 Free parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio.

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

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND.**

**Board and Committee Members – 2005**

**PRESIDENT**

**Dave Kleesattel**  
 daveklees@aol.com  
 (925) 798-8240

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

**Lee McIlvaine**  
 (925) 947-5477

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

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

**SECRETARY**

**Mary Hicks**  
 maryhicks@comcast.net  
 (925) 779-0698

**TREASURER**

**Bruce Naylor**  
 (925) 799-6402

**FEDERATION**

**Bob Pevahouse**  
 rockmanrob@aol.com  
 (925) 689-4676

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Kim Kleesattel**  
 daveklees@aol.com  
 (925) 798-8240

**PUBLICITY**

**Mary Bufton**  
 (925) 935-2081

**PROPERTY**

**Sam Woolsey**  
 sdwools@earthlink.net  
 (925) 837-3287

**HOSPITALITY**

**Sharon Neuhauser**  
 (925) 687-7816

**DISPLAY**

**John Owen**  
 imzzjohn5555@yahoo.com  
 (925) 827-0471

**ASSISTANT DISPLAY**

**Rana Owen**

**SHOW**

**Bill McKay**  
 williamrmckay@hotmail.com  
 (925) 439-8195

**LIBRARIAN**

**Bill McKay**  
 williamrmckay@hotmail.com  
 (925) 439-8195

**HISTORIAN**

**Hazel Woolsey**  
 sdwools@earthlink.net  
 (925) 837-3287

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Ann Matthews**  
 (925) 229-0836

**ECOLOGY**

**Glen MacKenzie**  
 macgems@att.net  
 (925) 689-4589

**EDUCATION**

**Joanne Caskey**  
 tcaskey@comcast.net  
 (925) 689-2119

**REFRESHMENTS**

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

**BULLETIN EDITOR**

**Sue Zabaldano**  
 2890 Crystal Lane  
 Brentwood, CA 94513  
 zabaldano@comcast.net  
 (925) 516-0651

COVER ART BY SHIRLEY SCHLEIF.



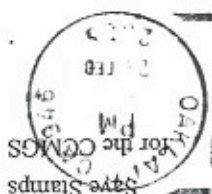
94521+9516 22

Mary Jernigan  
5085 Black Oak Road  
Concord, CA 94521

Time Value



FIRST CLASS



Diablo Diggin's Editor  
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society  
PO Box 4667  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

# DIABLO DIGGIN'S

Official Bulletin and Meeting Notice of the

Contra Costa  
Mineral and Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

A nonprofit organization whose members enjoy rockhounding  
and the lapidary arts.



Member of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



February 2005

