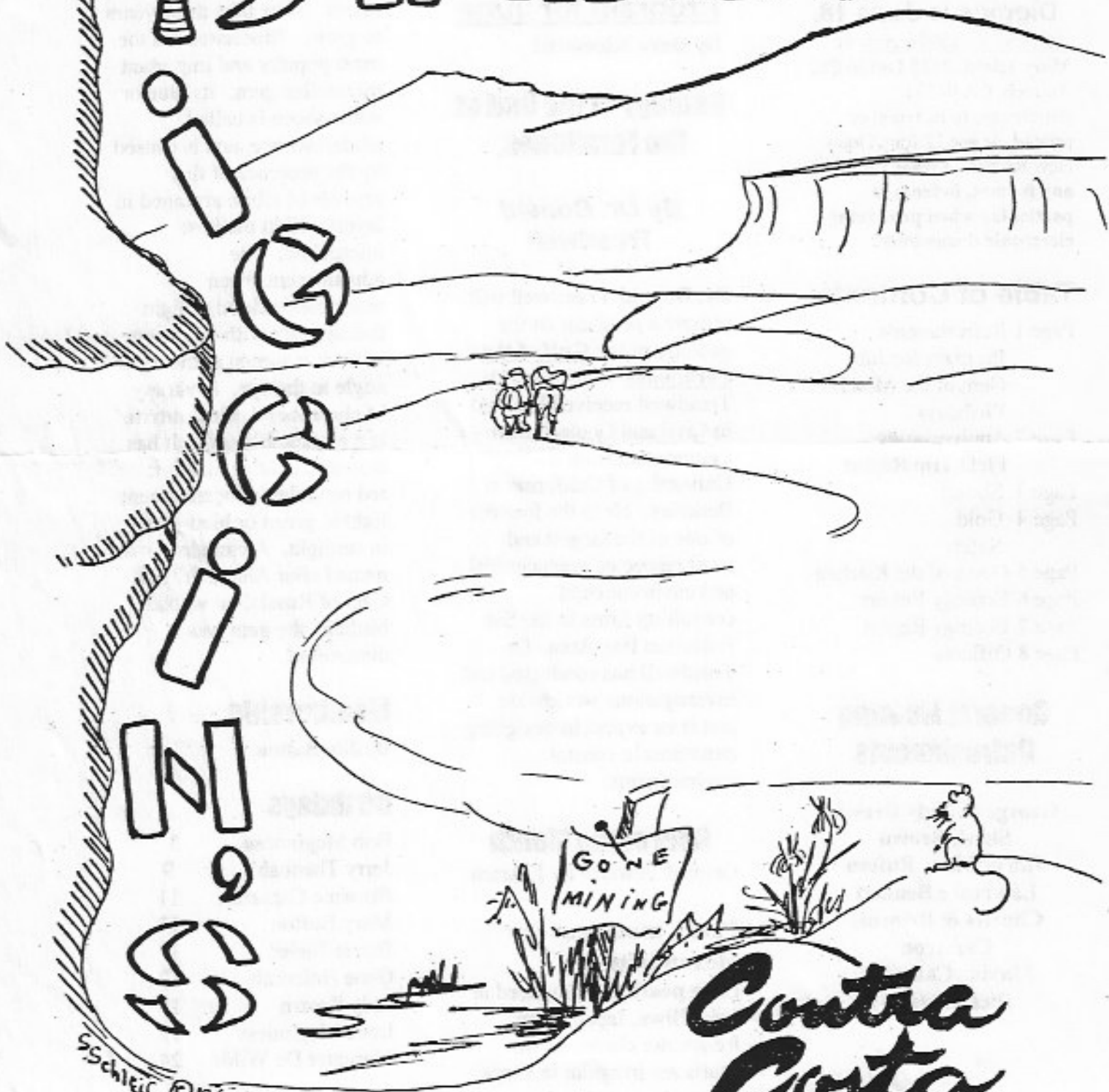


Diablo



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**Contra
Costa**
MINERAL + GEM SOC.
WALNUT CREEK, CA

Diablo Diggins - June 2003

Due date for July Diggins is June 18.

maryhicks@attbi.com or
Mary Hicks, 2418 Larkin Ct.,
Antioch, CA 94531

Articles are to be typed or printed, or use 12 font Times New Roman. Please do not do any format, indents in particular when producing electronic documents.

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General Meeting Refreshments

George & Judy Brown
Sherb Brown
Jim & Mary Bufton
Lawrence Bennett
Charles & Brownie
Cameron
Maxine Cameron
Dick Canales

Program for June

By Dave Kleesattel

Geology of the Gulf of the Farallones,

By Dr. Donald Treadwell

Dr. Donald Treadwell will present a program on the geology of the Gulf of the Farallones, California. Dr. Treadwell received his PhD in Civil and Geotechnical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He is the founder of one of the largest and most respected geotechnical and environmental consulting firms in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Treadwell has conducted soil investigations worldwide and is an expert in designing structures in coastal environments.

Gem of the Month

Gems & Jewelry by J. Aram

Pearl, moonstone or alexandrite.

Biwa pearls are produced at Lake Biwa, Japan using freshwater clams. Biwa pearls are irregular in shape,

but have good color and orient. They take three years to grow. **Moonstone** is the most popular and important microcline gem. Its blue or white sheen is called adularescence, and is caused by the presence of tiny crystals of albite arranged in layers within the host microcline. The adularescent sheen resembles a cloud of light that appears within the gem when it is turned at the right angle to the eye. A variety of chrysoberyl, **alexandrite** is a remarkable gem. It has dramatic change in color: red or violet in incandescent light to green or blue-green in sunlight. Alexandrite was named after Alexandrite II, Czar of Russia, on whose birthday the gem was discovered.

Membership

By Jim Bufton

Birthdays

Bob Meginness	3
Jerry Theobald	9
Brownie Cameron	11
Mary Bufton	17
Barric Bieler	17
Gene Holcomb	17
Judy Brown	19
Irene Meginness	19
Margaret De Wilde	24

Anniversaries

Elfie & Aaron Pingree 6
 Mary Ellen & Sam
 Johnston 6

Eric Sonnenthal 10
 Sherry & Scott Pevahouse
 12
 Ken & Jean Williamson
 12
 Anne & Bob Pevahouse 17

Susan & Richard Dennis
 23
 Althea & Barrie Bieler 25
 Bob & Irene Meginness 30

Chairman's Report Field Trip

By Dick Pankey

Field Trip Calendar

- June 14 – 15 Fairview/Fallon, NV area for geodes and rhyolite. Nevada Co. Club. Terry Bartels at 530-346-8345 or terrybartels@hotmail.com
- June 20 – 22 Elko, NV for fossils and petrified wood. Fossils For Fun. Contact Debbie Bunn at 916-929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com
- July 4-6 McDermitt, NV for blue agate, carnival agate, serena green, picture rhyolite. Calaveras G&MS. Contact Will Corey, 209-383-5037.
- July 12&13 Near Nevada City, to tour the 16-1 Mine with gold panning activities. El Dorado G&MS. Contact Steve Elliot, 530-647-9641, evenings.
- August 1-3 Siskiyou Co., south of Tule Lake to tour Lava Bed National Monument, museum and lava tubes. Carmichael G&MC Contact Debbie Bunn 916-929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com.
- August 8-10 Virgin Valley, Nvfor petrified wood and opals. El Dorado G&MS. Contact Fred Ott 530-677-8440 or fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com.

More information, fliers and details available from Dick Pankey at the meetings or call 439-7509 or e-mail me at dickpankey@juno.com.

Field Trip Chairman's Report— Snyder's Pow Wow – Wet and Wild

Apparently "Hydrophobia", fear of rain, water and mud, deterred a lot of our NBFT and YOTMC campers from attending this year's Pow Wow. They missed a good weekend. Yes, we had some rain. Yes, we canceled the YOTMC auction. But we had two very nice, sunny days. Two great potluck dinners. And a typically fun Pow Wow experience.

Betty and I arrived at the Pow Wow late Wednesday morning to set up our camp and put out

the NBFT/YOTMC signs. The Friesens arrived early afternoon. The first rain started early Friday morning but only lasted a few hours. The rest of the day was nice, with intermittent sprinkles. Saturday was about the same and Sunday was sunny. However the rain we did have was more than enough to make the aisles, roads, and parking lot soggy and muddy.

On Friday evening over 45 Old Timers and guests joined together for a great potluck dinner. Unfortunately at 7:00 the rain returned and the auction was rescheduled for next year. The NBFT potluck on Saturday evening was a little more exciting. Just as I started to give the blessing, the rain started, so I shortened it to "Praise the Lord. Thanks for this food." The serving table was set up under our awning so the 25 or so people filled their plates and adjourned to inside our trailer and 2 other motorhomes. The rain stopped about the time we finished dinner.

This year we only had 9 campers in 2 trailers and 3 motorhomes. We "all" helped direct traffic and people at the busy entrance gate at the Pow Wow. Most of us worked all three days and some double shifts. It is fun help and to be part of the Pow Wow. This "work" earned each organization \$75. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped out.

CFMS SHOWS

June 7-8; San Diego, CA. San Diego Lapidary Society. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. David Kostruba.

AFMS/CFMS SHOW-2003

June 5-8; Ventura, CA. Del Air Rockhounds presents: "Seaside Gemboree 2003" Seaside Park (Formerly Ventura Fairgrounds) 10 W. Harbor Blvd. This is a beautiful time to visit Southern California.

June 21-22; La Habra, CA. North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society. La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Bill Burns 626-288-2896.

July 19-20; Escondido, CA. Palomar Gem & Mineral Club. Escondido Army National Guard Armory, 304 East Park Avenue, Sat. 9-6; Sun. 9-5. Don Parsley 760-745-6181.

August 2-3; San Francisco, CA. San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society. S.F. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park; 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5. Ellen Nott ellen_nptt@yahoo.com

August 8-10; Nipomo, CA. Ocrutt Mineral Society. Changed to three days. St. Joseph's Church, 298 South Thompson Avenue. 10-5 all three days. Wayne Mills 805-481-3495. Email: Rocks4u2prodigy.net

Other regional shows.

Rocky Mountain-July 11-13, Casper, WY
Northwest-August 1-3, Kennewick, WA
Midwest-August 15-17, Cottage Grove, MN
Eastern-October 17-19, Poughkeepsie, NY

Want to come to Seaside Gemboree but don't want to drie or fly?

Take the AMTRAK!!

CFMS Newsletter May, 2003
 Receive 50% off best available fare for a companion ticket with the purchase of another adult Amtrak ticket.

From May 27, 2003 through September 14, 2003, travel aboard Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner to Seaside Park in Ventura and you can bring a friend along for 50% off the best available fare. Amtrak's train station is conveniently located just steps from the gates to Seaside Park. The schedule is flexible with four daily round trips and five on weekends. What better way to enjoy the California coastline than aboard Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner.

For reservations, schedules or fare information please call your travel

agent or 1-800-USA-RAIL and mention code H243. You can also visit your nearest staffed Amtrak station, or Amtrak's website at www.amtrak.com for conditions and restrictions.

The BIG SHOW is coming SOON!

June 5 - 8, 2003

Meeting schedule

Thursday, June 5

8 am Judges Breakfast
10 am Rules Committee

Friday, June 6

10 am Rules Committee
2 pm Ye Old Timers Ice Cream Social
7 pm Cracker Barrel

Saturday, June 7

8 am CFMS Director's Meeting
10 am Rules Committee
7 pm Awards Banquet

Sunday, June 8

8 am Editor's Breakfast
8 am Ye Old Timers
10 am Rules Committee
11 am Editor's Symposium

Reminder: It's time to get those Registration forms in!! Forms can be downloaded from the CFMS website www.cfmsinc.org or see

Bob Pevahouse.

GOLD

From the CFMS May 2003
Technically, Gold is a face-centered cubic crystal structure with

an atomic number of 79, a specific gravity of 19.2-19.3, depending on work hardening, atomic weight of 197.2 (although in 1959 the international atomic weight was listed as 197.0 and in 1966 relisted as 196.967). its symbol is Au and it has a melting point of 1063 degrees C (1945 degrees F). the thermal conductivity of pure gold is 3.18 Watt/cm at 273 degrees K, and 2.51 Watt/cm at 1300 degrees K.

Gold artifacts have been found dating back to 3000 BC, making it probably the second metal to be worked by man, after copper.

All the gold ever found, if it were cast into a single ingot, would be a block 20 yards cube, and weight about 20,000 tons.

One ounce of gold when flattened would cover over 100 square feet, or when drawn, would make a single wire almost a mile long.

Gold purity is measured by Karat, with 24 K being pure. 12 Karat is 50% gold and 50% alloy material. Electrum is a combination of 50% gold and 50% silver, and for a gold/silver mix, it is the ration which gives the hardest metal. Adding copper to gold, up to 18%, reduces the melting point of the alloy to 880 degrees C. to reduce the melt point further, add silver.

Gold filled is a base metal which has been clad with gold, then rolled to make sheets or drawn to make wire. 1/20 G.F. means that the ingot which was made was clad with 5% gold before it was rolled.

Usually, this is done by cladding 12 K gold 10% by weight on the base metal.

There are numerous different alloys popularly used, some of which are listed here:

22K

Yellow=92% gold, 4% silver, and 4% copper.

Coinage=90% gold, 10% silver.

18K

Yellow=75% gold, 15% silver, 10% copper.

Rose=0% gold, 75% silver, 5% copper, 20% zinc.

White=75% gold, 25% palladium.

14K

Yellow=58% gold, 25% silver, 17% copper.

Rose=0% gold, 58% silver, 10% copper, 32% zinc.

White=58% gold, 42% palladium.

AFMS Newsletter

June, 2003

Safety

By Bill Buckner

Concerns of safety issues in our shops, studios, or whatever we call our places where we work with lapidary concerns and jewelry making.

1. Ventilation: either have enough room or have some way to get enough fresh air that there is no danger of breathing problems.

2. Eye safety: a pair of safety glasses (either prescription or goggles) are needed when using machinery and rocks or minerals. In breaking stones, sawing stones, grinding stones, or polishing stones small pieces of rock could hit your eye and cause damage.
3. Chemicals that we use: care should be taken to be extremely safety minded when we use these toxic chemicals. Follow directions on the containers. Most chemicals that mix with water should be mixed into water, not water added to the chemicals.
4. Storage of chemicals: they should always be stored in a safe place with a good cover on them want out of reach of small children. I try to store mine in a wood rack with wooden dividers between the bottles or containers. They should always be labeled properly. (Acid and bases need to be stored separately. A good way to do this is have a rubber pan for each and the pan also acts as a containment basin in case a container tips and the liquid comes out.)

A few Do Not's:

1. Do not store gasoline or use it in a room where a gas water heater or any gas appliances have pilot lights.

2. Do not haul acetylene in a closed truck or car or truck cab without at least two windows open at least two inches. When there is an acetylene leak enough gas might build up to cause an explosion.
3. Do not try to use tools or torches when you are drowsy from medication. In fact it is a good idea to rest a little while before you go into your shop if you feel tired or sleepy.

4. Do not forget ventilation.

Some Do's:

1. Do be careful.
2. Do have a good time.
3. Do good work.
4. Do be available to help someone who needs it.
5. Do share your love of your hobby with others.

Gems From the Kitchen

A Gem or the Kitchen-Salt

Summarized from Petrograph 2/03

Ubiquitous in our seas and common in the earth's crust, salt is one of life's non-negotiable necessities.

Last Month was about Fleur de sol. This month it is :

Kosher salt, is mined and processed the same as table salt. It is produced through a compactor

that creates large flakes mechanically and potassium iodide is not added.

Edible rock salt, is also mined, but is not chemically purified. The mining is done to avoid undesirable minerals and the salt is simply pulverized, so it contains red and black mineral specks. It is cleaner than the inedible salt used to de-ice roads or freeze ice cream and can be used in cooking but not baking.

Alae salt, is a mixture of salt and powdered Hawaiian red clay. Its rich in iron and adds eye appeal to pale foods.

As salt enhances our diets, so does it season our vocabularies.

'**Taken with a grain of salt**', was originally part of a recipe for an antidote to poison, but is now interpreted to suggest reasonable skepticism.

'**Salt it away**', once a method of preserving food, is now extended to preserving money as skepticism.

'**Salt it away**', once a method of preserving food, is now extended to preserving money as well.

'**Old salt**', for someone that sailed the seas, and survived, is taken to simply longevity and wisdom.

'**Above the salt**', or '**below the salt**', is a value judgment on social standing. In medieval times the salt at a banquet was held in splendid vessels at the head table with the important family and guests.

ECOLOGY REPORT
By Glen MacKenzie

ROADS, ROADS, ROADS

The following are snippets from newspaper articles that were linked to the Bureau of Land Management's online newsletter **News Byte**.

"Copley News Service:

April 29, 2003

WASHINGTON-Tired of Washington regulators who close back country trails and roads in the name of environmental protection, San Diego County is trying to win control of federal land so it can let people visit places that are now off-limits.

It remains to be seen whether the county builds new roads and trails or opens existing ones in areas such as Cleveland National Forest and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. But the county has asserted its right to do so under a federal rule that has caused outrage in environmental circles nationwide.

County officials said the action will help them with an ambitious plan- to be presented to the public as early as next week- to build or improve 800 miles of trails, some of them on land now controlled by the federal government, including wilderness closed to the public. But it could also give the county a say in whether roads on environmentally sensitive land can stay open to the public....."

San Bernardino County Sun

"Tuesday April 29, 2003 - SAN BERNARDINO - In a move that has environmentalists worried, the county Board Of Supervisors voted Tuesday to apply to take over the right-of- way of an existing road on federal land.

The county may be the first in the nation to try to take advantage of a recent change in U.S. Interior Department policy to allow the move which has been a hot issue this year among environmentalists and those who argue that too much public land has been off limits.

The Board has unanimously voted to submit an application to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management asking to take over the right-of-way of Camp Rock Road, which runs across BLM land between Daggett and Lucern Valley.

"With this action we are leading the way for other counties to finally get title to roads on federal land", said 11st District Supervisor Bill Postmus, who represents most of the county's expansive desert area....."

San Francisco Chronicle

"Friday April 25, 2003

Wilderness has lost a key battle. With one April 11 announcement, U.S. Interior Secretary Gale

Norton has rolled back wilderness protection for 2.87 million acres of public land in the West, including 35,000 acres in California.

The decision effectively limits wilderness lands forever to 23 million acres nationwide.

Californians know that wilderness is irreplaceable. That's why Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel, successfully pushed legislation last year to protect federal lands in Central California from development. That's why Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Napa, and U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat, introduced the "Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2003" last month to protect another 303,000 acres of federal land in California as wilderness.

By law only Congress can designate lands as wilderness. But when citizens complained that Congress was unaware of all the lands deserving wilderness protection, the Interior Department listed them, concluding the inventory in 1991. Conservationists disputed the list and recruited volunteers to survey, on foot if necessary, potential wilderness areas. Under the Clinton administration, many of those lands were set aside administratively as wilderness study areas, pending congressional action to permanently designate them permanently as wilderness.

Without study status, the federal government is free to lease timber, mineral or grazing rights on public lands effectively disqualifying them from consideration as wilderness.

Norton's policy switch is a result of a legal settlement with the state of Utah. Utah had sued the Interior Department when then-Secretary Bruce Babbitt included 3 million acres of federal land in Utah wilderness study areas. The suit, inactive for five years, was amended last month....."

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm

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

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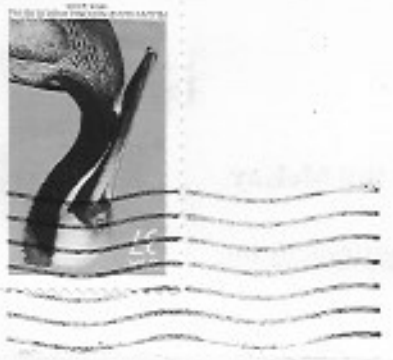
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for CMGS



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Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

A non-profit organization who's members enjoy rockhounding and lapidary arts



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