



SSCHNEIF © '83

December
ROOM

Contra
Costa
MINERAL & GEM SOC.
WALNUT CREEK, CA

Diablo Diggins -December 2002

Dues for 2003 are now Due

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Due date for the January Diggins is December 18. New address is maryhicks@attbi.com or Mary Hicks, 2418 Larkin Court, Antioch, CA 94531

December Meeting

By Ann Matthews

Our November program by **Bob Brumbaugh** of Ben Lomond, near Santa Cruz, CA. was very interesting to me and I know you enjoyed him also. **Bob and his wife, Sallee**, drove all the way to Concord and back in the bad weather just for our program. Dedicated rockhounds!

The December program is our annual Christmas Party. A great time to invite your family and friends. **Betty Pankey** will give you more details.

I hope you have all enjoyed our programs this year. We have many different interests in our group so I tried to get a variety of programs for you. Thank you to those who suggested programs and gave me information and **SPECIAL THANKS** to those who put on programs. **Dave Kleesattle** will be the 2003 Program Chair and I know you will be just as helpful suggesting programs to him.

Christmas Party

It's party time!! Our annual Christmas party will be held on the regular meeting night, which will be Friday, December 13th at the First Presbyterian Church in Concord. **Doors will open at 6:00 and dinner will be at 7:00 PM.** In addition to dinner we will have the installation of officers and some fun entertainment.

We will have a potluck dinner, which will include a ham provided by the Club. Please bring a dish that will compliment the ham, such as scalloped potatoes, sweet potatoes or squash, a salad, or a dessert. Each member should bring a hot dish or a salad or dessert and your **own eating utensils.**

There will be a Christmas ornament exchange again; everyone has been given advance notice. I was very impressed with last year's ornaments.

Please try to keep it related to our hobby, if you wish to buy an ornament that's o.k. Remember, for the ornament exchange, if you bring one you will receive one.

Ornaments do not have to be wrapped; we will hang them on a tree. Also, be sure to bring a canned food or non-perishable dry food item to donate to the Food Pantry.

Members are welcome to bring their family or a friend. This is a special fun evening. Name tags not required (no fines). Join in the fun - dinner, entertainment, door prizes, and ornament exchange. See you at the party.

Thank you to the following members for the refreshments at the November meeting:

Al & Shirley Schleif,
Harold & Barbel Schnoor,
John Slazas, Sody
Sodestrom, Eric & Nate
Sonnenthal.

Happy Holidays

This season is a time to reflect on the good times we have had this last year, to embrace the new strengths we have developed in coping

with personal adversaries, and to be thankful of the love of friends that are there for us in the good and bad times.

Not everyone in our community has the good fortune that we have. To share our good fortune, pitch in and bring canned and non-perishable food to our Holiday Meeting. Mary and Jim Bufton will be taking our contributions to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Be generous; help make sure no one in our community wants for sustenance this winter. ed

New Board and Chairs for 2003

President **Ann Matthews**
1st V.P. **Dave Kleesattle**
2nd V. P. **Dick Pankey**
Secretary **Sharon
Neuhauser**
Treasurer **Connie Klein**
Federation **Bob Pevahouse**
Membership **Jim Bufton**
Publicity **Mary Bufton**
Property **Glen Hubbard**
Hospitality **Betty Pankey**
Greeter-vacant
Display **Lee King** with
Assistant **Doug Rue**
Show **Sam Woolsey**
Librarian **Bill McKay**

Historian **Ron Fray**
Past President **Joe
Yarbrough**
Ecology **Glen Mackenzie**
Education **Mary Ann King**
Refreshments **Hazel
Woolsey**
Editor **Mary Hicks**
Cover **Shirley Schleif**

Membership

By *Jim Bufton*

2003 DUES are

DUE. If you have not already paid you dues for 2003, you may do so at the December meeting. If you are not coming to the December 13 meeting, **please send you check to Jim Bufton, 261 Santa Fe Drive, Walnut Creek, CA. 94598.** (Your prompt payment helps Jim process the dues efficiently and helps with the timely creation of the club rooster. ed)

CCMGS Rockhounds are not only BEAUTIFUL people, but CARING people too. This is the time of year that we show how much we care by sharing with those less fortunate. **The Contra Costa Food Bank (CCFB)** assembles food bags for those in need.

We can help this worth while agency by EACH person attending the Christmas meeting/dinner December 13 donate food item(s), ie.

Canned soups, tuna, stew, beans, peanut butter, packaged cereals, rice, noodles, etc. No perishables or glass containers. We will have boxes at the door to accept your generous contributions.

Last year we delivered 83 pounds of food to the CCFB. Can we top that this year?

November Show Corner

By the time you read this, the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society's year 2001 show will be "in the can," as they say in the movie industry. And now is too early to estimate the "box office" take.

However-it IS time for me to express my undying gratitude to all for their help, interest, and cooperation in putting this year's show together. Couldn't have been done with out them.

A few of the most generous contributors were: **George & Ann Matthews.** Matt spent at least two full 40-hour weeks with me building the new show cases. **Connie Klein** allowed us to use her "barn" and side yard for all the work-couldn't have been done anywhere else! **Jim High** painted the trailer, and **Tom Umholtz** has painted Diablo Dan on the sides.

Glen Hubbard participated as much as his bum leg would allow. **Charlie Bon** was a regular at the work parties.

Show time brings out **Mary Ann King** (front desk), **Linda Minnich** (wheel of fortune), **Hazel Woolsey** (grab bags), **Ann & Hazel** (kitchen prep), **Mary Crenshaw** (children's activities), **Mary Hicks** (Friday night dinner and fluorescent show guide), **Dick Pankey** (lectures), **Brownie Cameron** (demonstrators), **Charlie Bon** (set-up & tear-down), **Ann Matthews** (displayers), and of course, our demonstrators and displayers, themselves, too numerous to mention here.

And a special thank you to **Scott, Sherry, and Joey Pevahouse** for snack bar and kitchen management.

New Members

New members joined us for 2003. **Dave & Sue Zabaldano, and John & Rana Owen, Pauline Cortez, and Cassandra Antkowiak.** Welcome to these new members. You may remember **Sue Zabaldano** at our auction in October. She bid on and bought dozens of jars of jam and other items. She also was the welcoming

committee for the youngsters at the November show.

Birthdays

Sherry Pevahouse 12/5
Rosemary West 12/8
Mary Ellen Johnston 12/12
Edgar Miller 12/16
Darrel Brown 12/21
Mary Ellen Eggleston 12/25
Clayton Cochran 12/26

Field Trips

By *Hazel Woolsey*

Reminder: if you plan to go on a field trip, call the leader beforehand for further information.

Remember to wear your name badge. Coop trips are rescheduled frequently! ALWAYS call before driving a long way for nothing! To assist, the Coop group has established a web site where their latest field trip information can be accessed. <http://www.coop.freesevers.com/coop-fieldtrips.html>

Thanksgiving Coop trip lead by Will Corey will be over by the time you read this.

Thanks from me, for the Grab Bags & Wheel of Fortune to **Glen Mackenzie** for polished rocks and to **Betty Jerde** for wire necklaces.

Here are the proposed field trips by Co-Op.

March 16, Oxbow, Foresthill, CA for **pyrite in slate**,

hornblende, serpentine.
Carmichael G & M Club.
Contact: Martin Stewart, 916-781-8703 or
mwlstewart@yahoo.com

April 6, Calaveras Co. near San Andreas, CA for **bird's eye serpentine.** (Alternate date the 20th.) Amador Co. Club contact: Daryl Shelly, (209)296-0635 or darylshelly@volcano.net

April 20, Raindate, May 17th
Soapstone Ridge near Coulterville, CA, for **soapstone.** Calaveras Co. Club. Contact: Will Corey, (209)383-5037.

April or May, Rattlesnake Bar, Folsom Lake, CA for **common opal.** Roseville Rock Rollers Club Contact: Jim Barton, (916)773-0458 or geologist1@surewest.net or Bob Berg, (530)633-4612.

Field Trip Report

Eighteen participants from five clubs showed up for spaghetti dinner and pancake breakfast. On Friday (before other arrivals) we (Woolseys and Matthews) checked out the magnesite location. Although we found it, steep hills, a rutted road, and severely overgrown brush along the roads convinced us this may be OK for explorers, but not for collectors. After seeing the scratches on the sides of both vehicles and Sam's broken ham radio antennas,

everyone else agreed, too. Saturday started with a visit to the Aurora Mine for plasma agate. BLM had graded over the main collecting area two years ago, but the rains have already started washing out gulleys in the soft overburden, and a lot of material is still available along the sides of the hills for the taking. Next visit was to the remains of a large chromite boulder and upper Clear Creek for specimen materials – some with a drusy green garnet surface of uvarovite. The remainder of Saturday (and Sunday after breakfast) was in Clear Creek for jade. Saturday night 4 participants hunted along San Benito River with a black light, and think they may have found some benitoite! Sunday morning was like a full "Denny's grand slam breakfast" – all-U-can-eat sausage, eggs, and pancakes. No one left hungry, or with empty collecting buckets!

Dinosaur Exhibit at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

Via the Antioch Lapidary Club's newsletter Mineral Memos, November.

Now through January 22, 2003, at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue,

Walnut Creek, 925-935-1978, Not necessarily rocks however, they offer real skeletons, authentic eggs and nest, Exploratorium activities for kids, Oviraptor, Allosaurus, etc. You can excavate fossils from a quarry! A true one-day field trip. Call for exhibit hours or try www.wildlife-museum.org

TRI-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip.

From the CFMS Newsletter, November 2002.

The Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting a **Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV, over Memorial Day Weekend 2003.** The Texas Springs area is well known for **spectacular pink agate limb casts**, as well as, other agate and petrified wood. Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of the town of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. Dean Richardson from the Rocky Mountain Federation will guide us to several of the major collecting sites. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours,

evening campfires, tailgate displays and great rock hound get-togethers.

Directions: The Texas Springs area is located about half way between Wells, NV and Twin Falls, ID, south of Jackpot, NV, and east of Hwy 93. From the south, take I-80 to Wells and go north on Hwy 93. From the north take Hwy 93 south out of Twin Falls. About 2.5 miles south of Jackpot turn east on to the California National Historic Trail and follow the orange plates to camp.

Camp will be located 6 miles from Hwy 93 on Trout Creek. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motor homes and trailer to the campgrounds. Please notify your respective Federation leader early, no later than May 16 if you plan to attend.

Our club members should contact **Richard Pankey** at dickpankey@juno.com or call him at 925-439-7509

EDUCATION REPORT

By *Richard Pankey*

A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Betty Pankey** for her interesting and fun class on stained glass in October.

Eight first timers took this class and were introduced to stained glass by making 2 or 3 small projects – a flower using hobby cane and Christmas bells, kitty or angel using the copper foil technique. The attendees learned how to cut, grind, foil, and solder – all of the techniques needed to make stained glass projects. Betty also shared a lot of useful and interesting secret tips.

We had another year of great classes: arrowhead knapping, silver jewelry fabrication, bead stringing, dichroic fused glass, wire art jewelry, seed bead/point pendant, safety pin jewelry, railroad spike scenes, round wire jewelry, stained glass, and critter nights. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Don Tompkins, Mary Ann King, Ophelia Hicks, Connie Klein, Glen Mackenzie, Bob Pevahouse, and Betty Pankey** for teaching classes this year. We will miss **Jim High** and his classes in jewelry fabrication and lost wax casting. A special **BIG THANK YOU** to **Jim**. Displaying your projects at the meetings is another way to say thank you to the teachers who gave of the time and their talent.

We are still looking for credentialed teachers to help with our monthly

classes. If you are a credentialed teacher you could be a big help with our classes at the Mount Diablo Adult Education Center. If you have any level teaching credential for California please contact **Mary Ann King**. Be sure to give Mary Ann your ideas for classes and better still volunteer to teach one.

Mary Ann King is in charge of our Education classes for the coming year. Please continue to give her the support and help that you all have given me. Thank you all for the support you have given me these past 6 years.

Library Report

By *Marlow Hicks*

Gem of the Month reading - *Turquoise* Annual Volume 1 and 2. Books 142 and 143.

Enameling on Metal

By Oppi Untracht #309

Mr. Untracht is an instructor in Enameling at the Brooklyn Museum of Art School. When I saw his Chapter 8 on Causes and Corrections of Defects which included cracking, bare patches, burned-out patches, craterous bubbling, fire scale and peeling enamel, I had to read it.

The first thing I read was "There are several common defects which may occur in the work of a

beginner. Almost all of them are due to carelessness of work habits or procedure." He has a picture of each defect, tells what caused it and gives the cure.

The beginning chapters are about material, tools, samplers and preparations. There are three chapters on techniques. Another is about projects.

ECOLOGY NOTES

By **Glen Mackenzie**

You saw my letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein in the October Newsletter concerning the Senate Bill **S2727**, regarding the collecting of fossils. There is an almost identical bill in the House of Representatives Bill **HR 2974**. (My letter also went to six other senators and congressmen around the State.) The US Forrest Service is also requesting legislation that will likely add prohibitions on rock and mineral collecting on public lands.(our paid help is plotting against the hobby collecting public, it seems!).

If you have not already done so, take the time to **write a short note to both your Senator and Congressman** referencing these bills by the above numbers, which are called the **Paleontological Resources Preservation Act** and tell them that these

bills should be written to allow hobby collecting of rocks , minerals and fossils on Public Land.

The following is an excerpt from an **American Lands Access Assn.(ALAA)** letter I received recently.

Two rockhound buddies were collecting agatized coral last May in a Wildlife Management area in Florida. They were arrested by a game warden and spent 10 hours in jail before being released on bond. Even though their "dig" was not on an Indian burial site nor in any of the otherwise "preserved" sites, they were charged with Criminal Mischief, a misdemeanor.

The Public Defender's Office told ALAA that they knew of no Florida law that prohibited removal of rocks and minerals from Florida's public lands and that the rockhounds would have a good defense. The case was dismissed and never came to trial.

The point of the story is to make sure of the status of local laws and rules before collecting on Public Land as most of the people patrolling it are often unaware of them and can overreach their authority.

The following is from BLM's News Bytes

The Yuba Goldfields await exploration. "The playground is open. After years of legal battles, the gates have finally swung open to Hammonton Road and the Yuba Goldfields, a 10,000 acre expanse of gravel and cobble alongside the Yuba River" The BLM Folsom Field office and the Corps of Engineers announce that there is now a federal map of the Yuba Goldfields showing areas open for recreation. (BLM Field Manager is Deane Swickard).

CFMS

Earth Science Studies

Featuring Lapidary & Jewelry Arts Classes
April 6-13, 2003
Zzyzx Road, Soda Springs, California

The seventeenth annual Earth Sciences Seminar will be presented April 6-13 at Soda Springs (Zzyzx), approximately fifty miles northeast of Barstow, CA. Off interstate 15 at Zzyzx Road and four miles south.

The facilities are extremely rustic. Dormitory style rooms with mattress, bed,

and desk. Cleaning is the responsibility of the occupants as are any creature comforts you might wish to bring. RV parking is approximately ¼ mile from the Center and has no facilities of any kind. All restrooms and showers are in separate buildings at the center.

Classes will be conducted daily in Wire Art, Silver Fabrication, Chain Construction, Soft Stone Sculpture, Lapidary and Bead Stringing; and possibly others if deemed feasible. Each class is lead by outstanding instructors. Daily guided Field Trips will be offered and include collecting areas as well as sites of Historical Interest.

This area is designated by the federal government as a desert studies center, consequently no pets are allowed. Early registration is suggested. There is a \$220 per person fee which includes quarters, three meals per day and all classes. Additional charges may be assessed for materials provided by the instructors. Applications will be available at the December meeting.

CFMS SHOWS

December 6-8; Sacramento, CA.
Sacramento Mineral Society,

60th annual show, "Golden Harvest of Gems". Note there is a new location for the show which had been held in Roseville. **This year the show is in Sacramento at the Scottish Rite Temple**, 6151 H Street, This is across the Fair Oaks entrance to the Sacramento State University. Hours Friday 9-5, Saturday & Sunday 10-5. Stan Henneman (916)363-5011.

December 7-8; San Bernardino, CA. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, 503 W. 31st Street. Hours Saturday 10-6; Sunday 10-5. Emma Couveau (909)381-0089

December 7-8; Los Angeles, CA. Southern California Gem & Mineral Show, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Gem & Mineral Council; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park; Saturday & Sunday 10-5. MSSC PO Box 41027, Pasadena, CA.
www.mineralsocal.org

December 13-15; San Diego, CA. Show at the Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio St., Friday 12-7, Saturday 10-7, Sunday 10-5. Allen Van Volkinburgh, 760.747.9215.
www.gemgfaire.com

January 11-12, Exeter, CA.
Tule Gem and Mineral Society, Exeter Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah, 10-5 both days.
Don Viera 509.732.7739

YOTMC Hosting at Quartzsite January 16 through January 31
Wagon Master Dick and Joyce Friesen. Camp site is north of Quartzsite, AZ. Go north on 95 and turn right at MM114.7 onto Plomosa Road. Go just past MM 1 to 1.1 mile and look to your right for the YOTMC sign.

QIA: Jan. 29- Feb. 2
Tyson Wells: Jan. 18-26
The Main Event: Jan. 18-Feb. 2
Cloud's (Laughlin): Jan 4 Feb. 1

February 14-23, Indio, CA.
San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Gem & Mineral Building (on the Fairgrounds), 46-350 Arabia Street, Hours 10 to 10. Don Grisham 909.795.7289

February 28-March 2, Hayward, CA. Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. Live auction Sunday at 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm.

March 1-2, Arcadia, CA.
 Monrovia Rockhounds, The
 Arboretum of Los Angeles
 County, Ayers Hall, 301 N.
 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.
 Hours 9 to 4:30 both days.
 Enter via the Arboretum. Jo
 Anna Ritchey 626.359.1624

**March 8-9, Bakersfield,
 CA.** Kern County
 Fairgrounds, 1142 South P
 St., Bakersfield. 10 am to 5
 pm both days. Lew Helfrich
 661-323-2663

**March 8-9, San Marino,
 CA.** Pasadena Lapidary
 Society, San Morino
 Masonic Center, 3130
 Huntington Drive, Saturday
 10-6 and Sunday 10-5.
 Marlene Kyte 626.794.0519.
 Show theme is Gems,
 Minerals and Jewelry of the
 Southwest.

**March 15-16, San Jose,
 CA.** Santa Clara Valley
 Gem & Mineral Society,
 Santa Clara County
 Fairgrounds,, 344 Tully
 Road, San Jose, CA.
 Saturday 10-6 and Sunday
 10-5. Chuck Boblenz
 408.734.2473

**April 5 and 6. Mariposa
 Gem and Mineral Society.**
 Mariposa County
 Fairgrounds, Hwy. 140
 South, Mariposa. 10 am to 5
 pm both days. Dianne
 Mueller, 209-742-7625

**April 5 and 6, Calaveras
 Gem and Mineral Society.**
 Angels Camp, Saturday 10
 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10
 am to 4 pm.

**Snyder's 29th Pow Wow
 show and field trips. May
 2 through 4.** Valley
 Springs, field trips also,
 209-772-1265 or
www.valleyspringspowwow.com
 or snyders@caltel.com

**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.

There will be special field
 trips for the rare Nipomo
 Agate and more. Sign up
 early for the special
 activities.

Come to the show and
 celebrate America's rocks
 and minerals from the
 Atlantic to the Pacific..

Bob Backus (818)347-2056.
GemboreeBiz@aol.com
 Or the Del Air Rockhounds
 Publicity Committee at
ohmarin@earthlink.net

**Faceters Symposium 2003
 At the Seaside Gemboree,
 AFMS/CFMS Convention
 & Show in Ventura, June**

6-7-8. You are invited to
 participate in the Faceters
 Symposium 2003 which will
 be held at the Seaside Park
 (Ventura Fairgrounds) at
 Ventura. There will be ten
 speakers, hospitality hour on
 Friday evening, and a
 Saturday Awards luncheon.
 Contact Glenn Klein at
glennklein@vahoo.com

General Meeting

By Sharon Neushauser

President **Joe Yarbrough**
 opened the meeting at 7:30
 p.m. **Glen Hubbard** led us
 in the flag salute.
 Hospitality **Betty Pankey**
 introduced our guests and
 read birthday and
 anniversaries. **Hazel
 Woolsey** Field Trip Chair
 announced the Thanksgiving
 trip to Lavic Siding and the
 San Mateo Bead Show
 November 29, 30 and
 December 1st.

President Yarbrough
 announced a rock sale in
 Castro Valley on November
 10th. Dick Pankey invited
 those interested in a large
 rare collection of geodes to
 accept an invitation by **John
 Stockwell**. **Stockwell** lives
 in Berkeley and belongs to
 the East Bay Club, and he
 will be having a display,
 open house on December 7th.
 For directions contact **Dick
 Pankey**.

Betty Pankey announced our Christmas Party December 13th. Doors open at 6 pm and we will eat at 7 pm. Everyone bring a pot luck dish-hot dish, salad, veggies, potatoes, or dessert. Plus, bring your plate and silver ware. The club provides ham and drinks. There will be an installation of officers for 2003 with guests and maybe some Christmas surprises. P.S. Don't forget your tree ornament for the exchange.

At our regular meetings there is a jar on the refreshment table for donations to cover the cost of refreshments. When it is your turn to bring a treat you will see your name printed in the newsletter. Bring a pie, cake, or cookies. The club supplies the coffee and drinks.

Get well wishes to **Dr. Walt Carr** and **Betty Mackenzie**.

Treasurer **Connie Klein** announced that **Mary Ann King** had her jewelry in the Holiday Hutch and that she would be in the Oakland Bead Show, both happening this month. Federation Chair **Bob Pevahouse** hurried to Visallia for the weekend of our show for a short Saturday meeting then rushed home to be at the Sunday Old Timers breakfast and the Sunday show. He

announced the success of Placerville July CFMS and the dates of June 5-8th for the Ventura show in 2003. There will be outings and the beach is close by. Insurance costs have gone up this year. Next fall the business meeting will be in Fresno.

Jim Bufton says "Dues are Due." **These are due prior to December 31st**. There are still subscriptions to Lapidary Journal, with a discount rate, see **Jim Bufton** for details.

Publicity **Mary Bufton** asked anyone who sees any media notice concerning our club to please cut it out and give it to her. Also it was suggested that we call the paper and ask why it is not in the "Date Book" in their paper. Give meeting date, time and place. Also bring canned food for the Contra Costa Food Bank to the December meeting. There will be a box at the Xmas Party to place your contributions of canned food in.

Librarian Hawkeye (**Marlow Hicks**) had a list of many items in our book and video library. Books on jewelry making, how to carve jade, introduction to crystals and more. Feel free to check one out anytime.

Education Chair **Dick Pankey** congratulated **Betty Pankey** for her excellent stained glass class. A Diablo Dan cup was presented to both she and **Connie Klein** for her dichoric glass class. **Mary Ann King** will step in and take over the Education Chair in January.

The Livermore carving guru, **Dick Friesen**, will be teaching a Gem Stone Carving class. See Pankey for date, time etc.

Mary Ann King requested anyone interested in teaching a class next year to please contact her.

Show Chair **Sam Woolsey** reported on the financial status with a rough estimate of what we made at the November show. Attendance was off 20%, but we had a great show and people congratulated **Sam** and **Sam** thanked everyone, his wife **Hazel** and **Mary Hicks** and everyone involved in the 2 day show. It is a great way for members to get to know each other, and the great dealers at our show.

President **Joe Y.** asked all board members to bring their folder with a summary of insights on their job to the December 9th Board Meeting.

Ann Matthews thanked everyone for the beautiful display at our show and introduced our speaker for the evening. **Bob and Sally Brumbaugh** drove all the way from the Santa Cruz area to deliver our evenings show on "Rock Surfing."

Bob Brumbaugh had maps, diagrams and rocks, he discussed the plate tectonics, the continental drift, the WWII mapping of the Atlantic, Sierra Granite and he sold some great rock and mineral charts. It was an interesting "Rock Surfing" trip. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm with refreshments following.

CFMS Historian Report

November CFMS Newsletter
By Shirley Leeson, Historian

At the Convention meeting in Placerville, CA in July I received the following stones from Orlando Branch of the Santa Clara Gem & Mineral Society.

Birdseye Serpentine-Fallon, NV.
Chromium in Serpentine-Clear Creek, CA
Lepidolite-Pala, CA

I will be exhibiting all the stones that have been donated to the CFMS Historical Collection at the June show in Ventura, CA.

If there are collecting areas not represented, please search your material and make a donation.

This collection has grown since 1997 when the cabochons were first asked for. The CFMS clubs sent cabochons in honor of the AFMS' 50th Anniversary.

I am looking for early issues of the Lapidary Journal to complete the collection of these magazines for the Historical Library. Anyone who might have copies of the Earth Science magazines from the Midwest and who is interested in donating them, contact me.

Pictures of the CFMS Past Presidents, the Golden Bear Honorees, and the CFMS and AFMS Scholarship Honorees are still a "work in progress." I am still working on the bios for each Past President and Golden Bear.

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact me at Shirleyleeson@email.msn.com or write me at 6155 Haas, La Mesa, CA 91942-4312 or P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468

CCGC to Host Cloud's Jamboree in Laughlin

By Craig A. Edmonds of the Clark County Gem

Collectors, Las Vegas' The Polished Slab, November 2002.

Cloud's Jamboree will be held in Laughlin, Nevada at the Avi Casino on January 4th through February 1st.

As host of this show we have been given a booth to be used to sell the club's rock and minerals. We are looking for donations of saleable rock and slabs to sell.

We have Indian Blanket Jasper that is at the shop and needs to be cut to sell at this show. You can volunteer to cut it there or take it home and cut the material. A calendar will be at the November meeting to select the days you would like to work.

Now for the incentive to work this show. You will be able to take your own materials along with the club's to sell. The profits from the club's sales will come back to the club. You keep ninety percent of the sale of your items and the club gets 10-percent.

It's a great way to make money for you and the club RV parking in the desert at the Avi Casino is also free.

Gee Jay's is Moving

Gee Jay (the **Coggiola's**) are moving-- up the street.

Inventory reduction sale of 20-50% off selected rocks, beads and much more. 416 W. 2nd St. in Antioch. 925-757-4752

www.geejays@com

Turquoise-the Stone for December

Turquoise has been treasured as a jewelry stone for thousands of years. It was used for beads by the Egyptians as early as 5500 B.C. Pre-Columbian Indians used turquoise for beads and pendants from 500 B.C. Burial grounds of Central America and Mexico yield teeth decorated with turquoise—a tribute to early dentistry as well as ideas for adornment.

The oldest source of turquoise is the Maghara Wadi mines in the Sinai Peninsula. By 3200 B.C., mining expeditions of up to several thousand laborers were sent there annually. These mines were worked for the pharaohs for 2000 years. They were rediscovered in the mid-nineteenth century and worked on and off until the beginning of this century.

Turquoise was highly valued by the Indians of the Southwest as revealed by its prominence in myth and ritual. The Zuni Sky World had a mountain of turquoise whose reflection gave the sky its blue color. The first Navajo is said to have lived in a turquoise Hogan. Turquoise chips were put in Hopi house masonry and the Apache fastened turquoise to arrows and guns to make them shoot straighter.

Turquoise is a mineral found almost exclusively in arid regions of the earth. It is produced when a fractured rock, which contains aluminum and phosphate-bearing minerals, is infused with water and charged with copper. Turquoise usually occurs in seams, veins, nodules and pebbles. Often other minerals, such as quartz, pyrite, limonite and kaolin are present, forming patterns in the turquoise known as matrix.

Natural Turquoise – Treated Turquoise

By Leon Gilmore from the January 2000 CHIPS

Natural turquoise is any turquoise that has not been altered in any way. The test for this is a touch of

ammonia to the back of the piece to be treated. Natural turquoise will not turn white.

Enhanced turquoise is a hard turquoise with poor color. It is electrochemically treated by being placed in a bath much like a plating solution and then treated. The test for this material is a touch of oxalic acid which will turn the turquoise white.

Stabilized turquoise makes up ninety percent of the turquoise mined today. It is a chalk turquoise that has been stabilized by drying and then placing it in a vacuum chamber and flooding the chamber with an epoxy material, generally clinoepoxide so the turquoise won't absorb oils or break easily.

Reconstructed turquoise is a chalk turquoise which has been crushed then resins and dyes added, and the mixture is compressed into a solid block.

Baked turquoise is turquoise which has been set on Devcon or some other substances to make it thicker and stabilize it to keep it from breaking. Usually used on stabilized turquoise and on small pieces of natural turquoise to provide a flat back so they might be easily set.

Other processes for changing the color or turquoise include:

The Navajo method: Boil turquoise in mutton fat, causing the turquoise to turn green. The Navajo consider the blue turquoise as a male and the green turquoise as female.

The Hippy method: Take a ball point pen and dissolve the ink in alcohol and then soak and dry the turquoise.

The Chemical method: Soak the turquoise in potassium ferrocyanide and then soak it in a second solution of ferric ammonium citrate. This is also called the blueprint process.

Prospecting for Micrometeorites

From The Rollin Rock of the Roseville Rock Rollers, November 2002, from the Sky News 03/00

Odds are that some of the space dust that rains onto our planet every day has landed in your backyard and is lying there, just waiting to be found. A simple way to uncover this cosmic treasure is rather like panning for gold.

Using a sand pail or a large bowl, collect some sludge from the eaves trough on your house. Pour off the

excess water and pick out any twigs, leaves, bird feathers, bits of roof tile and other obvious non-meteoritic debris, and allow the remaining material to dry thoroughly.

Dump a bit of the dried material onto a plain sheet of white paper. Place a magnet against the underside of the paper and gently tap the sheet so that the non-metallic stuff falls off.

Next, take a look through a microscope at whatever material has been captured by the magnet. You can spot the micrometeorites by their rounded edges or pitted surfaces, signs of their fiery passage through our atmosphere.

Report from the deep Blue Sea: the Farallon Islands

By Sue Caldwell, from the October 2002 Petrograph of the Peninsula Gem & Geology Society

There are seven islands in the Farallons, lying 27 miles west of the San Francisco Bay. Our bay sits on a sandy shelf only 200 feet deep, but the bottom drops to 2,000 to 2,500 feet by the time you reach the islands. The Oceanic Society holds trips out from June to November (www.oceanic-society.org)

Their boat is a 63-foot diesel motor vessel, the New Superfish, certified by the Coast Guard, which carries a maximum of 49 passengers. There is an open observation deck and an enclosed salon. A marine biologist-naturalist who leads tours, limited to 10-12 people, to Alaska, Antarctica and elsewhere, includes the Farallons to identify seabird and sea life. She even carried small bottles of what the whales eat. She knew a great deal about birds and other wildlife.

We saw a number of humpback whales, one jumped completely out of the water in front of us. The boat weighs 27 tons and the humpback whale weighs 36 tons!! We saw blue shark, sunfish, several Albatross with a 7 foot wingspan, and the biologist was able to answer all our questions pertaining to the wildlife and geology. We learned of the history of the area, of the occupancy of the islands in 1824, of the egg farm once there, and of the Russian occupancy. We explored the geology via a topographic map on board.

The trip took eight hours, and was my second try. Trips are cancelled if the water is too rough or it is too windy. The captain took us to one part of the Farallons

they had not been able to approach this summer. It was not possible to stand without holding onto the rail or the overhead bars. This is an adventure you don't want to miss.

Rocks from a Deep Blue Lake: Lake Superior Agates

Ref: Lapidary Journal 2/80 via the October 2002 Petrograph of the Peninsula Gem & Geology Society

Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes (32,483 square miles) and its shores are considered one of the best collecting areas in North America. The best known collectible is of course the spectacular native copper specimens which originate in Michigan Upper Peninsula. A second is the amethyst crystal cluster produced by Thunder Bay Amethyst Mining Company, Ltd., Ontario, Canada. There are the thomsonite specimens from the Grand Marais area of Minnesota and Lake Superior Agates found at various locations around the lake.

The rocks on the east and south shores of the lake, range in age from Paleozoic (Cambrian and Ordovician) to Proterozoic (Keweenawan) and, Archean on the remaining shores. The Keweenawan Age

volcanic rocks, 1.1 to 1.4 billion years old, are the source of the Lake Superior Agates, well known and highly prized and among the most beautiful in North America. The volcanic rocks are principally basalts of varying compositions as well as andesites, trachybasalts, rhyolites, felsites, trachyandesites, quartz latites, diabase sills and dykes. The lava's, especially appeal to rockhounds, as their gas cavities sheltered agates, calcite, chlorites, datolite, epidote, prehnite, zeolites, and native copper. The volcanic rocks dip from shore under the lake, forming a large synclinal basin. It has been proposed that flood basalts erupted from a major rift of continental proportions that trends in an arc through Lake Superior.

These basalts underlie most or all of a belt nearly 100 miles wide and 1,000 miles long. The basin is due to subsidence after the out pouring of the lava. Rocks of similar density have been traced by gravity surveys southwest to Kansas. Some 300-350 flood basalt flows have a total thickness of 9,000 to 10,000 feet on the northern rim. The upper and lower portions of the individual flows contain abundant vesicles, which

filled with a variety of minerals.

Collecting can be in either primary or secondary sites. Unfortunately, extracting agates from basalt frequently cracks or destroys the agate. Weathered out agates are found in gravel deposits, but they may also be damaged by the transporting forces. Quaternary ice sheets, starting about 1.5 million years ago, scoured the bedrock areas clean during four major glacial advances. Glaciating occurred in four stages, known as oldest to youngest, Nebraskan, Kansan, Illinoian and Wisconsin.

The three oldest extended as far as St. Louis, Missouri, but Wisconsin terminated some 200 miles short of the others. The agates, which were carried out by glacial drift are concentrated by rivers being turned over and over, tend also to be cracked. Agates collected along the Yellowstone are much more cracked than Brazilian agates, which do not occur in riverbeds.

**Remember to
send your 2003
dues in to Jim
Bufton.**

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

PO 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

Visitors are welcome! Bring a Friend.

Membership fees: Initiation \$5; Regular \$10; Associate \$5; Junior \$1

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Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

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