

*Center
Center*

Mineral & Gem Soc.

JAN. '03

Diablo Diggins -January 2003

Dues for 2003 are now Due

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Due date for February
 Diggins is **January 18**.

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

Use 12 font Times New
 Roman, no other
 formatting, titles, indents
 as this will be done by the
 editor.

President's Message

By Ann Matthews

Wasn't that a nice Christmas Party in spite of the bad weather? It might have been wet and miserable outside but there were warm and friendly feelings indoors thanks to **Betty Pankey** and her committee who did a great job.

Lots of good food, laughter and fellowship. We enjoyed all of our guests and especially **Bob Pevahouse's** well deserved award for, "Education Through Sharing" by the CFMS. I think he goes to a show almost every weekend to demonstrate, not to mention his teaching at the Concord Activities Program and the good jam he makes and gives away. (My church group has a community service program and Bob donates many jars of jam to them throughout the year. The clients really love that for it is something they don't get elsewhere and can't afford to buy. Thanks Bob.)

Joe Yarbrough has been a great President these past two years and I will try to follow in his footsteps but I will need lots of help. There are some changes on the Board and we miss the Board members who are retiring. Thank you for your service.

And welcome to the new Board members. We have a wonderful club and it is so true that **Rockhounds Are Special People!!** The January Board meeting will be on Monday, January 6, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at my home.

I will call the new Board members who have not been there and give you directions. (It is the house with rocks). By the way, any member is welcome to attend the Board meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Also, please send me your e-mail address at glmlam@jps.net or phone or mail the information to Jim Bufton to put this information in the club rooster. The membership

rooster only goes to members of the club and is not mailed to other clubs or released to the public. I think it would be a big help to have your e-mail address to get in touch with you if needed.

January Meeting

By **Dave Kleesattle**

The program is up in the air at the time of the bulleting deadline. Needless to say, Dave will have an interesting program for us at the General Meeting, second Friday of the Month, January 10th.

PARTY NEWS

By **Betty Pankey**

Although our yearly Xmas party was very soggy, we had 51 members and guests attend. Many of the people showed up early and appeared to be in a festive mood, visiting with each other.

As usual, the food was very tasty and the desserts were delectable. **Tom and Phyllis Malicki** from Vallejo, enjoyed having dinner with us and Phyllis installed the new officers. As it was Friday the 13th, Phyllis did some research about things that happened on that day and shared them with the club.

Then came entertainment, **Richard and I** did a visual aid skit on "The Night Before Christmas". As usual, Richard hammed it up a bit, to go along with the ham we had for dinner.

Then came the fun stuff, the door prize drawings for some Christmas Cactus plants and then the ornament drawing. After that, we had everyone write something down about themselves, kind of like a secret that most people wouldn't know. We found out some very interesting things about our members and guests, if you missed the party, you missed out on the valuable information about everyone.

Special thanks to all those who helped set up and especially to **Hazel Woolsey** for all the crafty baby jars she made for table decorations.

Next event will be in the Spring. Hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year's.

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/Greeter **Betty Pankey**
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 **sending your check made out to CCMGS 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)

Birthdays

Mary Hicks 1/1
Kim Kleesattel 1/3

Glen Hubbard	1/5
Anne Pevahouse	1/15
Eva Umholtz	1/16
Ophelia Hicks	1/20
Jeanette Travers	1/22
Doug Malby	1/22
Linda Minnich	1/22
Dave Cunningham	1/23
Lyle Roessler	1/28

Anniversaries

Ron & Jeanie Russo	1/3
Gaylord & Betty Jerde	1/24
Pauline Cortez	1/30

Member Highlight

From the *Crystalites*, San Pablo Gem & Mineral Society

Our very own, **Bob Pevahouse** gave a program at the club's Pinole Shop on Cabochon Making on December 10th, 2002. Bob, Thanks for sharing with our neighbor club.

Member Report

By **Ophelia Hicks**

The Christmas Party and Installation of Officers was fun. The happy crowd visited, ate, applauded and laughed as the evening unfolded. The food, including the club ham cooked by **Betty Pankey**, was delicious and plentiful.

Seems as though rockhounds are good cooks. The festive occasion was kicked off by

decorated tables and music as members and guests gathered.

The incoming officers were installed by **Phyllis and Tom Malicki** of the Vallejo Club. They are both well-known for their years of attending North Bay Field Trips meetings as well as the own club involvement.

After the installation **Dick Pankey** became Master of Ceremonies eliciting laughter with his wry comments as he read what attendees had written on slips of paper. The game is one in which a person writes some unknown fact about himself and the rest try to guess who it is.

We learned **Glen Mackenzie** wears a size 14 shoe, **Marlow Hicks**, as a teen, jumped off a 50-foot tower into a pool in Des Moines, Iowa, **Bob Pevahouse** helped care for a ship-load of horses being transported to Poland, **Margaret DeWeese** is a rifle-shooting champion, and I won't tell you who met his future wife in a nudist colony.

Be sure to come to our next years' Christmas and Installation Party to join in the fun.

Field Trips

By **Dick Pankey**

March 1 NBFT Spring Meeting, Hayward, CA. Gem & Mineral Society of Castro Valley.

March 16 Oxbow, Foresthill, CA for **pyrite in slate**, hornblende, serpentine. Carmichael G & M Club. Contact: Marlin Stewart, (916)781-8703, mwlstewart@yahoo.com

April 6 **Stories In Stones**, Angels Camp, CA. Contra Costa M&GS. Contact: Dick Pankey, (925) 439-7509, dickpankey@juno.com

May 2- 4 Snyder's Pow Wow, Valley Springs, CA. Field trips for **Moss Agate and Moss Opal** - 5/2&3; YOTMC potluck & auction - 5/2; NBFT potluck - 5/3

May 22-25 Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous. Texas Springs, near Jackpot, NV for **limb casts, bogwood, snakeskin agate, etc.** CFMS/NFMS/RMFMS. Contact: Dick Pankey, (925) 439-7509 dickpankey@juno.com

More information and details available from **Dick Pankey** at the meetings or call 439-

7509 or e-mail
dickpankey@juno.com.

Library Report

By Marlow Hicks

Diamonds-Gemological Institute of America #298

The purpose of this book is to provide the reader with entertaining, factual accounts of the great and near-great diamonds of history – not only those that have gained world-wide fame because of their historical background, but those that are worthy of attention because of significant size or properties, method of fashioning or unusual source.

Field Trip Chairman's Report

There are already a lot of field trips and activities on the 2003 calendar. Most COOP have already scheduled and announced 15 trips for 2003. Now is the time for all NBFT clubs to "get off the dime" and announce and schedule their trips and activities. The Contra Costa M&GS will host an outing to **Stories in Stone in Angels Camp, CA on Sunday, April 6th** for a lecture on rocks, minerals and fossils. This is the same weekend as the Calaveras Show and we will also visit

a **soap stone gallery and "quarry"**. Fliers will be available at the January meeting. The big trip this year will be the Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous to Texas Springs, near Jackpot, NV in May.

I look forward to being your field trip chair again.

Contact me for information and details on field trips and outings.

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.

Board Meeting

By Sharon Neuhauser

December 9th, Board Meeting opened at 7:35 pm at President **Joe Yarbrough's** home. Missing board members were Dave Kleesattel, Ron Fray, and Sam Woolsey.

Field Trip Chair **Hazel Woolsey** reported on outings with the Co-Op. Also she stated that Sam had reserved November 1 & 2, 2003 for our next years show.

President Joe asked how many planned to go on the Texas Springs Trip next May

over Memorial Day weekend, some replied.

There was a motion moved and carried to have an audit committee give a financial report for 2002.

Hostess **Betty Pankey** reported on plans for our Holiday and Installation of Officers Dinner meeting.

Education Chair **Dick Pankey** announced again that we need to find an accredited teacher for our jewelry classes. We discussed the school's rental fee and looking into finding a clubhouse for our classes.

Membership Chair **Jim Bufton** said there is still time to apply for a subscription to Lapidary Journal. Also new members **Jon and Rona Owens** are taking jewelry classes. **Dave and Sue Zabadono** came to our old times breakfast and have participated in our auction, buying lost of jams and jellies. A motion was made and carried to accept these active people into our club.

Federation Chair **Bob Pevahouse** said he has been busy this month. He helped to install new officers in the Antioch club; and of course is active in announcing the All American CFMS show in Ventura, June 5-8th, 2003.

Mary Bufton had no report on publicity.

Dick Pankey said all members and guests are covered on outing by insurance. Our insurance for next year will go up and we discussed dues and other club expenses.

New Education Chair **Mary Ann King** has line up **Brownie Cameron** and **Shirley Schlieff** for slate classes in January.

Glen Hubbard said he, **Sam Woolsey** and **Matt Matthew** helped to seal the leaks in the storage trailer that hold club property.

Treasurer **Connie Klein** had the annual report for President Joe.

It was discussed who should take the mail, and that it should be picked up on December 15th to get the bill for our mail box, so that we can pay the yearly fee on time.

Librarian **Hawkeye (Marlow) Hicks** reported on his attendance to the December 7th Remember Pearl Harbor ceremony on Mount Diablo. The beacon is lighted at sunset in memory of the tragic loss of service people and island residents that day.

We thanked President Joe for being such a good host and for being President this past two years, and being no future business the meeting was adjournment at 8:35 pm.

General Meeting

By Sharon Neuhauser

The December 13th Holiday and Installation Dinner meeting began with set up starting at 6 pm. Everyone braved the rain and brought wonderful pot luck dishes.

After the flag salute and blessing we all enjoyed a delicious ham dinner with all the scrumptious fixings. We noted missing members but did have a great turn out.

Installation of officers was preformed by **Phyllis and Tom Malicki** from the Vallejo club. Some fun games were played and we found out very interesting things about our members and their families.

We wished everyone a very merry Holiday Season and Peace for all in the New Year. For those traveling for the holiday and to Quartzsite in January have a safe fun trip.

Garnets for January Birthday Rockhounds

From Antioch Lapidary's Mineral Memos 12/01

Garnets

Hardness 6-7 ½
Crystal Structure

Isometric; Rhombic;
Dodecahedron; and
Icositetrahedron

This is a group of differently colored minerals with similar chemical composition. The name derives from the Latin for grain because of the rounded crystals. Garnet, in the popular sense, is understood to mean red "garnets", almandine and pyrope.

Pyrope: (Greek-firey) is so called because of its red color. It was the fashion stones of the 18th and 19th centuries. Main deposits are in Czechoslovakia, South Africa, Australia. Confused with almandine, spinel and ruby.

Rhodolite: Rose-red or pale violet type of pyrope. Found in the US (North Carolina), Sri Lanka, Brazil, Zambia and Tanzania.

Almandine: Its name is derived from the town in Asia Minor. In order to lighten the color, the underside of some cut stones is hollowed out. Main deposits are in Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Brazil, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Can be confused with pyrope, ruby and spinel.

Spessartite: Its name is derived from a former occurrence in Spessart, Germany. Now found in Sri Lanka, Brazil, US, Malagasy Republic and Sweden. Can be confused with hessonite.

Grossular: The name derives from the Latin for gooseberry. Since the 1960's, has been found in gem quality, mainly green. Deposits are in Sri Lanka, Canada, Pakistan, South Africa, Tanzania, Russia and the US. Can be confused with emerald and demantoid.

Hessonite: Brown-orange variety (Greek-less) of grossular. Also called "cinnamon stone". Found especially in Sri Lanka. Can be confused with spessartite and hyacinth.

Leuco Garnet: Is a colorless garnet. Deposits are in Canada and Mexico.

Hydrogrossular: Is opaque or green grossular; found in South Africa. Also called "Transvaal jade" because of its similarity to jade.

Demantoid: (diamond-like luster) is the most valuable garnet. Found in the Urals, it can be confused with grossular, peridot, emerald,

spinel, tourmaline, and idocrase.

Melanite: Is opaque, a black variety (Greek-black) of andradite. Found in Germany (Kaiserstuhl), France and Italy. Used for mourning jewelry.

Topazolite: Is lemon-yellow variety (similar to topaz) of andradite. Only small crystals are found in Switzerland (Zermatt) and the Italian Alps.

Uvarovite: Named after Russian statesman. Deposits are in Urals, Finland, Poland, India, the US and Canada. Can be confused with emerald.

Prospecting for Nuggets in Arizona's Plomosa District

By James E. Mulkey
This is an abbreviation of an article in *Lost Treasure* magazine, August 2001.

The author talks about a trapper named Captain Pauline Weaver who discovered gold in the La Paz District in 1862. The area has been La Paz County, AZ since 1983.

In the 1860's Fort Tyson was there to protect miners from marauding Indians. Fort Tyson, Quartzsite, is a

restored mining museum and assay shop. The area in the 1860's was the plain between the Plomosa Mountains and the Dome Rock Mountains. It is around 7,500 square miles.

The Arizona Bureau of Mines publication states the best placer fields are in the La Cholla, Oro Fino and Middle Camp's. Other ores are sheelite, silver, lead and zinc. The author and friends found gold flakes in washes near Mudersback Mine. This is part of the Excelsior mining area.

This mine has "pockety chalcopryrite, bornite and pyrite in a pyrometasomatic deposit, oxidized near the surface, with a garnet epidote gangue and strong hematitic-copper carbonate gossan in faulted metamorphosed Mesozoic limestone. The mine produced 700 tons of ore that was 4.4 percent copper, 0.67 ounces of silver per ton and 0.03 ounces per ton of gold."

Take Highway 95 north from Quartzsite for a distance of six miles to Plomosa Road and go ten miles on this road toward Bouse. Ten miles from Hwy 95, go to the mining area of the Climax, Tough Nut and Southern Cross mines. The road passes a shallow shaft that is under claim and the tailings

are bright red hematite. Continue another mile to a fork, the right goes to lead-zinc mines and drift tunnels. The author reports highly fluorescent ore specimens inside the tunnels and the tailings.

Another location, go a mile further on Plomosa toward Bouse, going over a low altitude pass where there is a historical marker. Past this, there is a right hand side turn off, follow this dirt road going south in a meandering fashion to Mudersback Mine about two miles from the road.

Author recommends purchase of the IbeX Peak 7.5 minute quadrangle topographic map before visiting the area. Contact U.S. Geological Survey Map Sales; Box 25286, Federal Center Building 810, Denver, CO 80225.

Caution, drifts can have uncovered deep shafts in them. These shafts should be treated as bottomless pits.

Another area discussed in this very informative article is about Dripping Springs, take Gold Nugget Road exit from Interstate 10. The author recommends purchase of two 7 1/2 minute topographic maps, the Plomosa Pass Provisional Edition, 1990 and Crystal

Hill. This is four wheel driving. Gold Nugget mine has course gold with cerussite which will fluoresce under shortwave. There is a two mile hike to get to Dripping Springs. There are numerous Indian petroglyphs in the canyon. Gold nuggets have been found through this area.

There were more locations and directions in the article if you want more information contact the magazine Publisher, Lee Harris publisher@losttreasure.com

For Quartzsite fans, you can get more information from: Arizona Bureau of Mines, Gold Placers and Placering in Arizona, Bulletin Number 168, University of Arizona, Tucson, 1961.

Heydelaar, Pieter, Successful Nugget Hunting, Volume 1, self published, 1991.

Johnson, Robert, Gold Diggers Atlas, Cy Johnson & Son, Susanville, CA. 1992.

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 pendent, 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.

CFMS SHOWS

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.

Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral Show and Rice Ranch Roundup Jan. 1 Feb. 28

Prospectors Panorama Gold Show Jan. 3-15, Jan. 18-Feb. 3

Tyson Wells Sell-O-Rama rocks, gems, arts, crafts & more. Jan 17-26, then Arts and Crafts Jan 31 -Feb 9

QIA: 37th Pow Wow, usually two field trips a day. Jan. 29- Feb. 2

The Main Event: Jan. 18-Feb. 2, crafts, swap meet, hot air balloons, glider flights, fireworks, horse shoe tournaments

Big Tent Sports, vacation, rv-Jan 18-29, then Hobby, Craft & Gems-Jan 29-Feb 3, then Rock & Classic Car Show Feb 2-2.

Cloud's (Laughlin): Jan 4 Feb. 1, new location.

February 14-23, Indio, CA. San Geronio 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.

**April 26 and 27. Santa
Cruz, Santa Cruz Mineral
& Gem Society; corner of**

Center & Church St's; 10-5
both days. Hubert &
Elanor Drake at
hmdrake@packbell.net

**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.

Also, attending the show is
the only way you will see the
life-size Triceratops that will
be on exhibit.

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@yahoo.com

**Other regional
shows.**

South Central-Feb 22-23,
Pasadena, TX

Rocky Mountain-July 11-
13, Casper, WY

Northwest-Aug. 1-3,
Kennewick, WA

Midwest-Aug 15-17,
Cottage Grove, MN

Southeast-Oct. 5-6,
Jacksonville, FL

Eastern-TBA

**Tucson Show
Schedule-2003**

Partial list and tentative
dates. From the Marin
Mineral Society-Tumbler

American Gem Trade Asso.
2/5-10

American Indian Exposition
2/16

Arizona Mineral & Fossil
Shows 2/1-15

Gem & Lapidary
Wholesalers 2/1-14

La Quinta Group 2/1-14
Mineral & Fossil Co-op 2/1-
14

Tucson Gem & Mineral
Society 2/13-16

More listed at
[www.tucsonshowguide.com/
tsg/](http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/)

**Gee Jay's is
Moving**

Gee Jay (the Coggiola's) are
moving-- up the street to 603
West Street 2/8/03.

Inventory reduction sale of
20-50% off selected rocks,
beads and much more. 416

W. 2nd St., Antioch. 925-757-4752

Internet Magazines for Rockhounds

From Marin Mineral Society the Tumbler

I have recently stumbled onto three very good online publications related to our hobby, and want to pass along the information. You get the full illustrated articles here, not just teasers.

The Canadian Rockhound (www.canadianrockhound.com/issues.html)

online magazine has many well-written articles about Canadian localities and minerals, as well as good articles about rocks and minerals elsewhere in the world.

The National Park Service publishes two good online newsletters. Park Paleontology (www2.nature.nps.gov/grd/geology/paleo/newsletter.html), provides information about fossils found on NPS lands as well as articles about research and researchers in paleontology on behalf of the NPS.

Inside Earth (www2.nature.nps.gov/grd/geology/caves/newsletter.html), published

quarterly by the NPS Caves and Karst Program, tells about NPS caves (and abandoned mines) and the research going on in and about them.

Next time you are searching for a good online geologic read, check out these resources.

Oil Change

From Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club's Jasper's Jargon

Gary and I just bought a 5 gallon bucket of Cygnus Hydraulic 46 Oil from Monterey County Petroleum here in Salinas. Gary cleaned out the icky foul smelling Almag from his eight inch trim saw and replaced it with the clear and odorless Cygnus. He cut a few slabs and says it works okay even though it seems to be thinner in consistency. William Mc Falda got us a print out of the specs and we decided anything that didn't smell as bad as Almag was a vast improvement. It was about \$35 for the bucket and Gary said that he barely put a dent in the 5 gallons. Next on the list of things to do is to change the oil in the big saw and see how it works.

Paleobond

From the Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club's Jasper's Jargon

If you are interested in the stuff Bill Mc Falda used to stabilize his Mammoth ivory here is the website: www.uncommonconglomerates.com Bill likes it and says the debonder really works.

Things I Learned at Camp Paradise

By Jo Burchard

When carving soapstone beads, drill holes in the flat slab of soapstone, on a 3/4" grid, and then saw between the lines. Drilling is much easier when you can hold the material firmly.

When carving soapstone in bas-relief, undercutting some of the design gives a more dimensional feel to the carving, 'lifting' the shape, up, off the stone.

Cabochon & Carved Gems

From Big Rock Trader via the Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Petrograph

Cabochons are probably the first formally recognized manmade shape. The *simple cabochon* being a rounded convex top with a flattened back. The shape is suitable for agate, jade, cat's eye stone and moonstones.

A *double cabochon* has a rounded back, lower in height than the front; it is

commonly used for star stones because it may increase the distinctness of the star and the extra carat weight is a definite plus to the Ceylon native cutters who cut most of the world's star stones. A pale stone may have its color deepened by doubling.

A *hollow cabochon* is where the back of the stone is concave, it is used where the color is too dark, as with many garnets. "Carbuncle" meant a cabochon cut red garnet.

The *lentil cut* is a rather shallow double cabochon with the top and back of even height, used for many years for small moonstones.

Scarab carved cabochons carved by the ancient Egyptians in representation of the *Scarabaeus sacer* beetle. The top was beetle shaped, the belly usually carried the family seal. Generally carved from carnelian or sard.

The ancient craft of *cameo* carving is a lovely and exacting art handed down from almost the beginning of civilization. The origins are lost in history, but jewelry and other pieces dated from about 4,000 BC have been unearthed from the Sumerian Culture of Mesopotamia and the Minoan of Crete.

Cameos have been found in tombs of Egyptian aristocracy and in China where they decorated the shields of warriors. They reached its peak in Greek and Roman times, due to the period's passion for all things classical.

Cameos are carved as gems, from hard stones or shells, with two or more layers in bas-relief, the carved figure raised above. The design is chiseled from the light "verin" or layer against the lower dark background.

The reverse, where the design is sunken as well as the colors reversed, is called *intaglio*.

Chevee is carved below the surface of the gem but carved as a raised figure in the bottom of a depression cut into the stone.

Cuvette is a flat cabochon with a concave oval depression in the center.

Though cameos were made from onyx, agate, sardonyx, chalcedony and the like, today conch shells are used exclusively. Shells are imported from the warm waters of the West Indies and Madagascar.

The *Red or Rosaline Cameo* comes from the shells of the Bahamas. One large and

two small cameos can be carved from an average shell. The outer layer of pieces cut from the shell is removed showing the pinkish layer beneath, only then can the decision be made as to what will be carved. Working with very sharp small knives, the artisan creates the shell cameo, taking anywhere from a day to many weeks to complete.

North Carolina Sapphire Trip

By Jean Smith, Sacramento
Mineral Society's Matrix

On September 21st, my daughter, Catherine, and I started out on a trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, and western North Carolina. We flew into Knoxville, where we stayed with friends for two days and then went through the Smoky Mountains to Asheville. We visited the Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock and then started our rockhound adventure.

We had researched collecting sites on the Internet and decided to start by going to Hiddenite, NC, to collect emeralds. We went to the Hiddenite Gems Inc. mine. For \$7 we were allowed to sluice for gems in the creek, and sluice a complimentary bucket of enriched gravel in their

flume. For another \$3 we could also dig on the side of their mountain. Catherine also bought a bucket of gravel enriched with emeralds for \$25. She got several pieces of emeralds in a green matrix.

I got several nice pieces of amethyst and a small emerald and some other rocks in my complimentary bucket.

The next day we went to Canton to the Old Pressley Mine. This is a mine that was active between 1850 and 1902 mining corundum.

There is a huge hill of tailings from that operation which has not been disturbed since. You are allowed to go to the hillside and scrape off the dirt and look for sapphires in matrix for \$20 a day. These are cabled into star sapphires.

Unfortunately, we were on the periphery of Hurricane Isadore and it poured rain all day. We were the only ones there and the owner lent us slickers and rain pants. Catherine again bought an enriched bucket for \$45 and got several good pieces which are now being made into cabs. I got several good pieces from the hillside, I think.

The next day we moved on to Franklin where we visited the Old Cherokee Mine.

Here the daily fee is \$6 and 75 cents for a 3-gallon bucket. All of these mines have flumes where you wash out your dirt and pick through the gravel for anything of value. Again we were the only ones there and it poured rain. Here you are not allowed to do our own digging. Catherine got one sapphire and I didn't get anything.

We decided on our last day to go to Mason's Mine, the Old Johnson Place, and see what they had. We were the only ones there and it was closed. However, the lady very kindly offered to let us dig anyway since we were from so far away. But she couldn't get the flume running. The water was so high. All creeks and rivers were near flood stage by this time. We were allowed to look through the tailings from a large hole. Patsy helped us and we actually found quite a few 3 mm pink sapphires.

It was a fun trip and Catherine now has the rockhound bug. We are thinking of going to Montana next year.

Gems from the Kitchen

By **Barabara Snook**, Napa Gems, Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club

I don't usually think of making sandwiches for dinner, but this recipe would make a good meal with a green or fruit salads added. And applies are so plentiful just now. I have not included amounts with the ingredients as the amounts can be adjusted very easily depending on the number of sandwiches needed.

Grilled Cheese & Apple Sandwiches

Butter

Onion, peeled & thinly sliced

Green apple, peeled, cored & thinly sliced

French bread, unsliced

Shredded Cheese, your favorite

Ham, sliced

Turkey, sliced

Melt 1 tbsp butter in a large skillet. Sauté onion until soft, stirring often. Add apple and cook and stir for 5 minutes more.

Meanwhile cut bread on the diagonal to make ½ inch thick slices. Butter one side of each piece lightly and place butter-side down in a large skillet. Sprinkle cheese evenly over bread slices. Place equal amounts of the onion mixture, ham & turkey on half of the bread. Close sandwiches and cook until heated through.



**Contra
Costa**

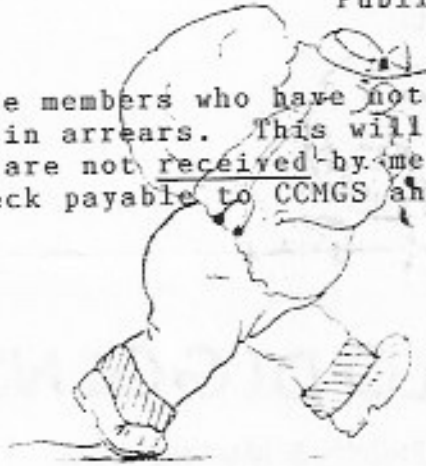
Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

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The Christmas Dinner/Meeting was a great success what with the hilarious entertainment provided by Dick and Betty Pankey. Members attending contributed at least 62 pounds of food items, greatly appreciated by the Contra Costa Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity.

Jim & Mary Bufton
Membership Chair
Publicity Chair

Note: For those members who have not paid their 2003 dues - you are in arrears. This will be your last bulletin if dues are not received by me before February 1. Make check payable to CCMGS and mail to me



Jim Bufton
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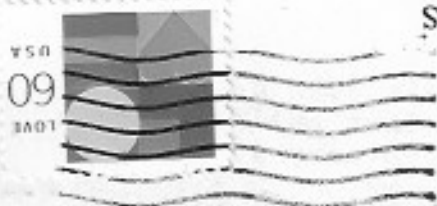
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