

May 2024 VOL. 72 NO 5

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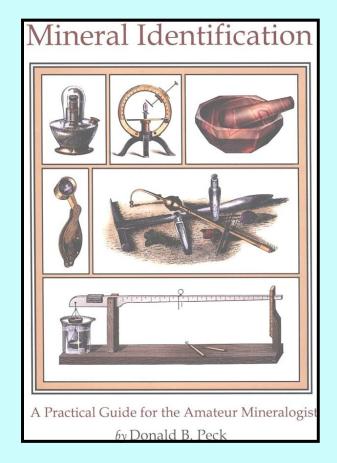






Diablo Diggins "We Dig Rocks" Since 1950

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society



GENERAL MEETING - GEM

Michael Hopkins will be giving a presentation entitled 'Mineral Identification for Budding Mineralogists'. Fun stuff, you should go.

CCMGS MISSION STATEMENT: Our purpose is to promote popular interest and education in the earth sciences, including geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and related subjects; to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of persons and groups with similar interests; and by and through such means to strive toward greater community and international good will and fellowship. will and fellowship.

We also support promoting and ensuring the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes related to the earth sciences. We fulfill our mission by holding monthly meetings and special programs. Members attend and participate in local and statewide events and hold a yearly public show.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: May 13, 6:30pm, Endeavor Hall. No BOD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



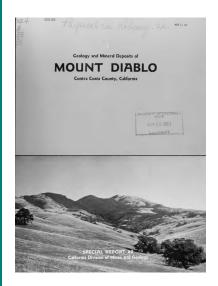
Spring is here in all its glory, rain one day and cold wet the next, and windy every afternoon. Get out there and enjoy our great state. And bring home some samples to those of us stuck here.

I want to thank our new member **Ashley Roderick** and mom, **Barbara**, for all the hours spent on our new website and setting up the new officer emails. THANK YOU!

I want to send out a big Thank you to **Rudy Trauter** for the super presentation about the geology of Mount Diablo. He made the complex geology of the mountain very understandable and enjoyable. Rudy is a new member, Thank you for stepping up as our Outings Chair and sharing his expertise.

Thank you to all members who helped with the setup and tear down of the meeting, especially **Primo** and **Cheryl**, who give so much effort to the club.





A book of Mt Diablo Minerals from our club Library

Michael Hopkins

At our May club meeting, your editor will be presenting a discussion of the properties and practices we use to identify minerals. We will have demonstrations and some hands-on tests. I will how to do practical field observations for Rockhounds on the go!

This is normally a day long course, so I will have to gloss over some things.

We have two events in June that we signup ups for helpers: our annual CLUB PICNIC is June 8 at the Morgan Ranch, Please contact **Louise Gilley**. or Cheryl Morgan. See signup sheet at meeting.

We will have two weekends manning the ROCK PAINTING booth at the Alameda Co. Fair . Always fun and interesting, we paint, we talk to folks and handout stuff about our club. See signup sheet at meeting.

Secretary Report & Membership Chair

SECRETARY REPORT

- BOD approves a \$75 budget to purchase a first aid kit. (Outings)
- BOD approves a \$1000 budget to purchase new projector for club programs and classes. (Programs)
- Cheryl M. setting up to start classes next month. Details TBD
- Cheryl accepting donations for GEM raffles.
- New member Ashley Roderick is working with her mom (Barbara Roderick) to build the new website ccmgsclub.com. No date set yet as final content is being worked on. Club has 5 new emails setup for officer positions:

president@ccmgsclub.com, secretary@ccmgsclub.com, show@ccmgsclub.com, publicity@ccmgsclub.com, contact@ccmgsclub.com.

- Forms for CT-TR1 (Annual treasurer report) sent to the treasurer for completion and payment to the state.
- Picnic on June 8, at Morgan Ranch. Need volunteers for the hospitality committee. Please contact Louise Gilley. (Or Cheryl Morgan)
- Storage clean up day is coming soon. Need volunteers to help. (Contact Primo Facchini).
- Club trip to Davis Creek and Peacock Mine is in August. Details from Rudy coming soon.
- Working on a Quarry tour in September.
- Antioch Artisan Jewelry show May 4th @ CCC Fairgrounds.
- We will help man the **ROCK PAINTING** booth at the Alameda Fair in June.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Currently have 39 members, Including 1 new member Ashley Roderick.
- Honorary member Ann Matthews has passed away. Sympathy card was sent to the Matthews family.
- **Taylor Thompson's** dad **Mike** is in hospital. Get well card for him was sent to Taylor.
- Former long time member, **Debbie Blevins** has donated approximately 20+pounds of postage stamps to the club. Barbara picked up the loads of stamps in several boxes and many large bags of stamps. Stamps were delivered to Kelly Plumb to be drop with CFMS.

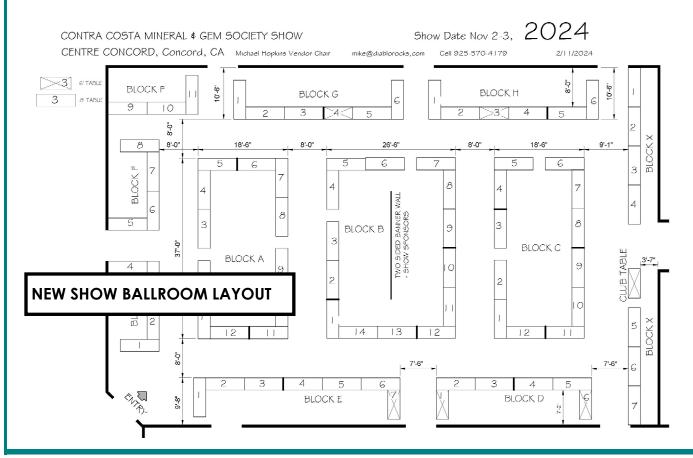
Reports submitted by Barbara Roderick April 25, 2024.

Message from The Show Chair

As of May 1st there are 238 days until Christmas and only 185 days until the 2024 Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society 2024 Show to be held on November 1st and 2nd 2024 at the Centre Concord 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord.

The yearly Mineral and Gem show should be the highest earning event of the year however the 2023 Mineral and Gem show showed a negative on the books. The Board of Directors chose to try to keep the event at the Centre Concord, the largest indoor facility in the County, for several reasons, some of which are that the Centre Concord is a beautiful facility, we have been there for over 20 years and the city of Concord did give us a substantial discount to help us make the show a success.

In order to make a profit, we have made changes to the pricing and layout of the ballroom making room for additional dealers to attend. We have also added Sponsorship levels that we will offer to area businesses. These sponsorships will give participating businesses brand-identity and partnership recognition to the shopping public during our Mineral and Gem Show. Their financial contribution will help the CCMGS to continue and enhance our educational activities. If you work for, or know a business that would be interested in becoming a sponsorship partner, please email me or let any board member know. robertsavrejr@gmail.com



Outings and Field Trip Chair

Let's talk Opals.

Opals are created when water running along the crust picks up silica from sandstone. This silica rich solution gets dispersed into cracks and voids. Over time the water will evaporate and leave a deposit of silica. Once the silica deposit solidifies, it turns to opal. The concentration of this silica is most often found in faults, decomposed fossils, and wood cavities.

The black fire opals from the Virgin Valley in Nevada are special because they formed within 14-million-year-old wood cavities. As the old tree limbs and trunks turn to petrified wood, some of the cavities are filled with opal.

Black fire opals are often found in volcanic regions, where ancient lava flows have left behind hollows, ridges, and cavities. The silica rich water deposits are held under heat and pressure due to the lava. Once they solidify under those conditions' opal deposits are formed within the volcanic rock. In the case of the Virgin Valley, it was the Yellowstone hot spot.

The Virgin Valley has many different types of Opal. On a previous trip to the Royal Peacock Opal Mine, I found some brown root beer colored opal. I found many limb casts about the size of my finger. The outside of the little twig was encased with white opal that had fire of greens and blues. Fire in opal can be detected by holding it in the light and viewing sparkling colors within the translucent opal. The gift shop had an opalized pinecone with fire on display. Someone in the campground showed me a nice piece of black opal with red fire. It was about the size of a magic permanent marker lid.

Hopefully this got you excited to find some opals and you will consider joining us on the field trip.

Our club Opal Field trip to Virgin Valley, Nevada is scheduled for August 3rd and 4th. Saturday will be spent collecting opal from Royal Peacock Opal Mines. They have two options. digging virgin material out of the bank \$190 per person and going through the tailings \$75 per person. Saturday Opal will be collected at Rainbow Ridge. They offer full day tailing, Half day tailings, and a tractor bucket load. Email me about prices.

I need to get a head count on anyone interested in going and your collecting preferences.

Our 2^{nd} leg of the trip will be to **<u>Davis Creek</u>** California for obsidian is scheduled August 5th& 6th. Monday will be spent checking in to your accommodations, obtaining a collecting permit in Alturas, and possibly a $\frac{1}{2}$ day of collecting. Tuesday will be all day collecting.

Our club member **Finnius Biwer** has done an amazing job researching places to stay in the area for both the Obsidian and Opal trips. There are limited non camping options, so it is important to reserve ASAP. Reach out to me for that list.

Do you know of any local trips related to rock and gems or geology and minerals? Would you be interested in a field trip to the Blackhawk museum?

The field trip chairperson would like your feedback, please email Rudytrautner@gmail.com

CFMS Director

Camp Paradise

Earth Science Studies—Camp Paradise 2024 12725 LaPorte Rd, Strawberry Valley CA 95930 Camp Paradise is approximately 50 miles east of Marysville on Highway E-21 (Marysville Rd.) towards Brownsville. Elevation is approximately 3,500 ft. The facilities are at a rustic church camp. Bunk beds are furnished in rooms and cabins. Bathrooms and showers are communal and located in each building. Housekeeping is the responsibility of each guest. On a limited basis, cabins are available for 4 or more persons, communal bathrooms and showers are located nearby. RV space with electricity, water and sewers for most spaces are available. Room assignments are made by staff. This is a church camp facility—no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE REGISTERING: Cost per one week session (Room/Board is \$500.00) Some classes will have a nominal charge for supplies.

The cutoff date for registration is August 3, 2024.

After August 3, 2024 there will be a \$50.00 fee for late registration

No refunds will be made for cancellations after August 3, 2024 unless a substitute paying guest is provided.

Sign-ins will be from 1 pm-4 pm on Sunday August 18, 2024 (session 1) and Sunday August 25, 2024 (session 2) Make Checks payable to: CFMS Earth Sciences.

For information contact Jill Atkins. Send Checks to: Atkinsdesign@gmail.com Glenda Keil Call 775-232-6626 or 1116 Fremont Way Gary Atkins Sacramento CA 95818

garysgems@gmail.com gkeil@gmail.com Call 775-412-2010 In Glenda's absence contact Jill Atkins or Gary Atkins

Classes: Beginning Lapidary, Advanced Lapidary, Beginning Silversmithing, Intermediate and advanced silversmithing, Lost Wax Casting, Beading, PMC-3 Clay, Fused Glass, Enamel, Cold Connection, Intarsia, Wire Wrapping and Chain maille.

Ventura CFMS/AFMS Show

As your new CFMS Director for 2024 for both Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society and the Antioch Lapidary Club I am very excited to be attending my first official convention and show for Contra Costa and my second for Antioch. I have volunteered to demonstrate wire wrap at the Ventura Show and Alan will be demonstrating Cabbing so we are on our way to showing club involvement in the Federation. I have not yet decided if I will be entering a case. What I am really excited about is the unbelievable number of stamps we will be delivering thanks to Debbie Blevins. The boxes fill up almost half of the back of my Prius. I am not even going to try to weigh them! I spoke to Colleen McGann who receives the stamp donations and we are going to make a big show of presenting this mound of stamps to the Federation. If either club is going to even begin to approach this level next year we need to start now to ask all of our friends, businesses, acquaintances and enemies to save their stamps. Get them to me and I will get them to CFMS.

CFMS Director report cont. next page

CFMS Director report cont.

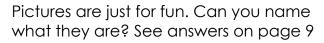
The show theme is mermaids so there will be a contest to locate the most local mermaid statues, artwork etc. Ventura club members showed up at the Visali event dressed as mermaids complete with King Neptune to publicize the show.

Please let me know of anything you want me to bring up for either club at the convention at <u>kellyplumb900@yahoo.com</u>. Please put Federation in the subject line.

American Lands Access Association

ALAA has advised for several years now that AFMS Societies, Federations and individuals document their collecting areas with the site-specific routes used, and the identification of the material collected, along with your valuable history at these places. When public lands begins talking about closing access to your collecting areas, it's been important to share that information with other AFMS societies. That way they can use the same site-specific route information with the list of collected material in their comment letters, in their support of you. One rockhound can have a lot of positive impact with their comment letter. More rockhounds with the same site-specific information in their public comments and public comment letters, adds even more positive benefit. (taken from an article by Jennifer Haley on ALAA website.)

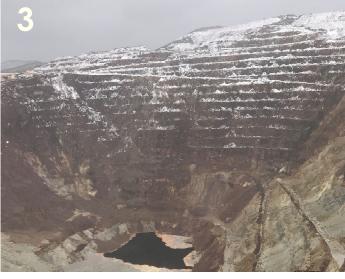






WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DICHROIC

A mineral, gem or other material showing dichroism, I.e. different colors when viewed in different directions.



CCMGS GEMM April 8th 2024 Endeavor Hall - Clayton, CA

7:10 pm Meeting called to order by President Mike Hopkins leading the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Signed in: 20 members and 1 guest, Jerald Flowers.

<u>President announcements:</u> Meeting locations are secured through the end of year. Read your monthly newsletters for important meeting details and other club news.

Rudy Trautner is speaking on Mt. Diablo's historic geography and the rocks from creek crawl. Members brought in rocks found on the creek crawl trip as show-n-tell. Nice pieces of jasper, tiger iron and more are displayed.

Also, a raffle tonight after the program. Proceeds to help hospitality funds for the picnic. Items raffled were donated in part by Primo, Cheryl Morgan and TJ Maxx. \$1 ticket.

Barbara and daughter Ashley have built a new club website. Barbara to be webmaster. Launch date TBA soon.

Officer/Committee reports:

VP1: Cheryl reports she is having trouble getting speakers. May meeting program TBA. Cheryl requests help with ideas and contacts. Looking for educators, and/or members who have a specialty in the hobby to share? Knowledgeable and skilled: in rock id, lapidary, carving, jewelry making? Contact Cheryl with your ideas or any skills interested in learning. Cheryl to coordinate classes to start in May.

VP2: Rudy reports on upcoming trips with CO-OP. Contact Rudy if you want to sign up for any of the following CO OP adventures: Sonoma Coast outing on April 14th. Hauser Geo Beds in Palo Verde on April 19 -21, and Clear Creek outing May 4-5.

Ideas for other day trips please contact Rudy. Near future, possibly Black Hawk Museum. To be polling members for field trip ideas and interests.

Rudy and Finnius are working out the details for CCMGS' 3-day trip in August to Peacock Mine and Davis Creek. Watch for details in the next newsletter. Rudy has a busy schedule and will help any member to lead a field trip if he is unavailable.

Secretary: BOD meeting open to members.

New club contact email address and new website announcement coming soon. Website content is built using AFMS' website contest in mind and CCMGS to win first place!

Decades of postage stamps have been donated to the club! Former member, Debbie Blevins planned with the secretary to pick up several boxes and bags of postage stamps she and her late husband collected (filled the entire back of my SUV and front seat). An estimated guess of approx. 20+ lbs. in stamps total w/o boxes. Secretary to contact federation director, Kelly for distributing to CFMS' cause. Thank you, Debbie Blevins.

Treasurer: Account @ \$28K. Financial reports emailed upon request.

Membership: 40 members total including new member, Ashley Roderick.

Show update: CCMGS 2024 Show postcards were passed out to attending members for distribution. Need a committee to help with sewing grab bags. Louise has fabric to donate.

Looking for help with set up and tear down from members to keep labor cost down. Looking for corporate sponsors-banner advertising, also increased dealer price.

Federation: Absent Kelly to be in town on the 16th.

Other shows happening: Santa Cruz, Mariposa and Placerville shows are all the same weekend April 13-14. Antioch Artisan Jewelry sale May 4.

Thank you to Finnius for the Clorox Wipes donation. Congratulations on the new job.

Program Topic: Historical geography of Mt. Diablo presented by Rudy Trautner.

Did you know??: Mt. Diablo was formed 1-2 million years ago? It is 3849 ft. tall and still rising at about 1/10" per year! Rocks on top of Mt. D are from the Jurassic era. Thank you, Rudy, for a job well done. (I have visited Mt. D for over thirty years and didn't know these things about our majestic mountain we all share. 8:15 Break 8:32pm meeting adjourned. Winning tickets were drawn by Cheryl Morgan. Event was over and done by ~9:15 pm.

Recorded and submitted by Barbara Roderick-Secretary CCMGS 2024

Fun stuff from Mini Miners Monthly

Editors note-Mini Miners Monthly is geared for younger rock hounds but I look at it for the pictures. It is free and has many great products to purchase.

С	О	P	P	Е	R	S	D	Q
A	G	Y	A	L	S	K	D	U
L	0	R	G	A	L	Е	N	A
С	L	I	S	I	L	V	Е	R
T	D	Т	G	A	R	N	E	Т
T	0	Е	A	G	A	T	Е	Z
Е	A	Z	U	R	I	T	Е	P
В	A	R	I	T	Е	Н	I	М
G	F	L	U	О	R	I	Т	Е

Search for these mineral names:

Pyrite

Gold

Copper

Quartz

Silver

Azurite

Barite

Fluorite

Calcite

Galena

Agate

Garnet

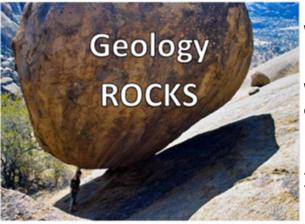
Which rock group is composed of four men who can't sing? Mount Rushmore.

Why can't minerals lie? They're always in their pure form.

Knock, knock. Who's there? **Gneiss.** Gneiss who? **Gneiss to meet you.**



Cairn / Karn



What is a geologist's favorite ice cream? Rock erode.

Why was the sedimentary rock collection so cheap?

Because it was on Shale

Answers from page 7— 1. Gulf Fritillary - Agraulis vanillae on Butterfly bush (Buddleia); 2. Calcite 'Poker Chip'; 3. Lavender Pit, Bisbee, Arizona

Local Shows and Events

May 4, 2024 — Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Artisan Jewelry and Rock Sale
425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch, CA
Hours: Sat 10-4 (Outdoor event)
Contact: (925) 457-1859, (510) 693-9075, roccosgee1@yahoo.com, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Website: antiochlapidaryclub.com

May 11-12, 2024 – Jackson, CA

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society Kennedy Mine, Highway 49/88, Jackson, CA 95642

Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM Both Days GEM AND CRAFTS FAIRE. Available will be rough/slabs of rock, lapidary items, arts & crafts vendors, handcrafted jewelry, beads and findings galore. Food and drink will be sold. Mine walking tours available. No dogs please. Contact: (209) 304-9622

May 18 - Grass Valley, Ca

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Tailgate Rock Swap & Sale, 12629 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, Ca Free admission, 8am to 3pm

May 24-26—AFMS National & California State Show & Convention

Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 W Harbor Blvd Ventura County Fairgrounds Ventura, CA

Web: http://www.2024cfms-afms.com/

August 3-4, 2024 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society. The Grounds Roseville, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA 95678 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM 62nd Roseville Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Over 70 vendors, inside/out. featuring: Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Amethyst, Beads, Gemstones, Meteorites, plus Free – Scientific Mineral and Gem ID – bring your rocks for a no-cost Scientific Identification! Fun for Kids in "Education Station", Petrified Wood, Stone carvings, many special exhibits. Demonstrations, Huge Rock Auctions. Lots to see for adults and kids at this family friendly event. General admission \$10.00, Kids – 12 and under Free. Parking \$10. Tickets at the door, online, or grab a discount coupon on our even website: rockrollers.com Website: www.rockrollers.com/show.html

FIELD TRIP OPPROTUNITY

I received late notice about an upcoming Co-op field trip to central Oregon in June. The description is 4 pages long so we will send out as an email blast. If interested please discuss with Rudy.



Saturday, May 4, 2024 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

NICE MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS!

FREE ADMISSION/Fun for the whole family

Everyone is invited to the Antioch Lapidary Club's annual Artisan Jewelry & Rock Sale/Swap. There will be booths with jewelry, slabs, rough and other rock-related items to purchase.

Join us for a fun-filled "rockhounding" day – visit our Rock and Mineral Museum; games for children; field trip to our rock pile behind clubhouse – rock by the pound – cheap.

BBQ lunch served at 12:00 - only \$5.00 with all the fixings!

Where: Antioch Lapidary Club's clubhouse 425 Fulton Shipyard Road, Antioch, CA

If you would like to sell/trade/swap items, bring a table or two and your jewelry, rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, extra equipment, etc. Please call Gary Casillas at 925-458-4076 to reserve a spot.

Roseville Rock Rollers

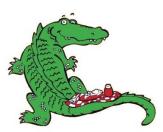
www.rockrollers.com

TAILGATER - ROCK SWAP -SALE

Saturday, June 1st, 2024 8:00AM - 4:00PM

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Carmichael Elks Lodge Parking Lot 5631 Cypress Avenue Carmichael, CA. 95608



Join the fun & have a nice day out with fellow rockhounds FREE ADMISSION, family friendly event, food & soft drinks for sale

The Rock Rollers are holding their Tailgater during the CARMICHAEL ELKS LODGE ANNUAL PARKING LOT SALE Other vendors will be present selling various items

!!Tailgater vendors are located on the Cypress Avenue side of the parking lot!!

Contact Martha Nichols with inquiries 916-798-0235



SUPPORT LOCAL CLUB SHOWS

Email NCGMS at oominerals@gmail.com for booth details (45 available)



Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Show
November 2-3



We're on the web!
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We're on Facebook! www.facebook.com/ groups/CCMGS/

ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Editor: Michael Hopkins

Send reports/articles/ pictures by the 25th of the month to:

mike@diablorocks.com

2024 Officers:

President
Michael Hopkins
mike@diablorocks.com

Vice President (Programs) Cheryl Morgan ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Vice President, (Field Trips) Rudy Trautner rudytrautner@gmail.com

Secretary Barbara Roderick ccmgs.2023@gmail.com Treasurer
Cheryl Morgan

Federation Director Kelly Plumb ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Show Chair Rob Savre

Show Co-chair Michael Hopkins

Education Cochairs Cheryl Morgan Donna Albrecht

Property Chair: Primo Facchini

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors

No BOD meeting this month

General Meeting

Monday, May 13, doors open 6:30pm, program 7:00pm ish Endeavor Hall 6008 Center Street, Clayton, CA

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was formed in 1950 to encourage the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts, and field collections.

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

Calendar of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

MAY 2024 1-31-2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		M	1 CFMS Show case deadline	2	3	4 BOD-NO MEETING Antioch Tailgate
5	6	7/5/	8	9	10	11Almador Show Jackson
12 Almador Show Jackson	13 CLUB- Endeaver	14	15 Entry deadline Ala. Fair	16 SOCI	17	18 Nev co Club Tailgate
19	20	21	22 Diablo Dan	23	24	Newsletter reports due
			431 1930	Set up	AFMS & CFMS National Show	AFMS & CFMS National Show
26 AFMS & CFMS National Show clean up	27	28	29	30 Ca State 51- Ct-TR-1 IRS 990N Du Ca State 199		d ck

Holidays and Observances: 5: Cinco de Mayo, 12: Mother's Day, 27: Memorial Day

Wiki Calendar

		JUI	NE 2	024	1	-31-2024
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			INERA	<i>Y</i>		1 BOD- Library 10 am Officer comm
2	3	4	5	6 B CE	7 Setup for cases at fair 7th-10th	8 CLUBPicnic @ Morgan Ranch Raffle.
9	10 Club meeting is at Morgan Rn. 6-8-24	10	12	13 8	14	15 Alamedia Fair Rock Painting Booth
16 Alamedia Fair Rock Painting Booth	17	18	19 Diablo Dan	20	21	22 Alamedia Fair Rock Painting Booth
23 Alamedia Fair Rock Painting Booth	24	Newsletter reports due	26 EST 1050	27	28	29 Alamedia Fair Rock Painting Booth
30						
Holidays and Obse	rvances: 14: Flag Day	y, 16: Father's Day, 19:	Juneteenth			Wiki Calenda