



Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

September 2021

President Donna Albrecht's Message

Hi All!

I was delighted to see so many friendly faces at our August meeting. Kudos to Mike Hopkins and his able assistant, Kelly Plumb for a great program on creating eye-catching cases! I know I got some new ideas! If you haven't registered to display a case for this year's show, get in touch with Kelly to get the registration form. (It's on page of this newsletter!)

Keep your fingers crossed and your masks on. Our show is coming up November 6-7 and so far the City of Concord is requiring masks, but even with the Delta variant of Covid-19, they aren't making any noises about shutting us down or adding restrictions. Mike Hopkins is our fantastic show chair and please plan to volunteer to help with whatever aspects of the show you can.

It's not too late to volunteer to run for office for 2022. It's an amazing experience and you'll find it enriches your experience as a club member. Contact Karen Oliver at cockroach1454@gmail.com to learn more.

There will not be a craft contest this month. So save the cabs, faceting, and jewelry for October's contest.

I'm looking forward to seeing you

PROGRAM

As summer turns to fall and rock hounding season turns to show season, we're fortunate that we're able to continue to meet in person, because September is one of my very favorite meetings:

CLUB AUCTION!

It's time to go through your stuff. What would you like to share with other members? (Rough, slabs, specimens) What do you just have more of than you'll ever use? What equipment do you have that you no longer use and are tired of looking at? (Working equipment only, please!) We welcome jewelry you design and make, but please be aware it may not generate as large a bid as you hope. On the other

hand, some pieces have done very well over the years. Get your stuff together and bring it to our Sept. 13 meeting at 7 pm and we'll auction it off for the benefit of the club.

Members who have paid their 2021 dues can write a check.
Everyone else, cash.
Bring a rock-loving friend (cash).

This is always a fun meeting and a great opportunity to find new treasures.

Volunteers to help with the auction always welcome!

Best,
Donna Albrecht, President

New Officers need to be nominated by September 2021 for October 2021 election

President (Donna is stepping down but willing to mentor)

1st Vice President and Program

2nd Vice President and Field Trips

Secretary

Treasurer

Federation Director

Other positions that need to be filled to continue a smooth running club:

Historian

Newsletter Editor

Public Lands Advisory

Refreshments for General Meetings

A Nominating Committee was formed of Karen Oliver; Dick Pankey; and Carol Taraldson and is welcoming any interested members. Contact Karen at Cockroach1454@gmail.com

If you are willing to continue in your position please advise us.

Upcoming Meetings-

Board of Directors- Saturday September 11th, 3pm at the Donna Albrecht's, with a Show meeting to follow.

General Meetings- Monday September 13 at 7 pm (2nd Monday of the month), Centre Concord

Refreshments for September General Meeting: Donna Heath, Christine Henningson, Don & Margaret Henrich, Jane Holcomb, Mike Hopkins, Vikki Hotopp, Pat Howard, Lee Jacoby, Dave & Kim Kleesattel

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Gary Casillias 9/10 Brenda Flowers 9/9 Naomi Morgan 9/21

Anniversaries: Howard Shamy 9/9 Michael Federoff 9/10

CCM&GS T-Shirts- Where is yours? Club shirts are available in limited adult sizes. Cost \$15- \$17 plus postage. Contact our designer - Bob Rigor rrrigor@aol.com

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Board Meeting August 9, 2021

Call to order: 6:40pm

In attendance: Donna Albrecht, Kelly Plumb, Terry Caskey, Taylor Thompson, Mike Hopkins, Karen Oliver

Membership Application for Sean Patrick Lail: Karen O. moved to approve; Terry C. 2nd: approved unanimously

Motion to remove Mary Jernigan and Mario Malik from bank signature card made by Kelly P; Karen O. 2nd; Approved unanimously

Nominating Committee report: Still looking for presidential nominations. Karen O. Dick P. Vikki H. and Kelly P. will run again for their positions.

Audit completed for 2020, copy provided for file

Donna A. – reviewing/removing old records. Financial records are up to date through today.

Random Discussions:

Slim down club administration, including reducing library, possibly discontinuing website...discussion followed, no motions made.

September Membership meeting is the auction.

Lots of obsidian needles in storage space, turn into wind chimes or wind chime kits for the Show?

CFMS by laws template is for 150 members, we have about half that many

Move to adjourn by Karen O. 2nd Terry C. Approved unanimously 7pm.

Next Board Meeting Saturday September 11th, 3 pm at Donna's, with Show Meeting to follow.

2021 CCMGS SHOW NEWS



MINERAL & GEM SHOW & SALE

Saturday & Sunday
Nov. 6-7
10 AM - 5 PM

\$1 OFF
with this card

Admission \$6
Under 16 FREE with adult.
Scouts in Uniform FREE
Military & First Responders
FREE with ID

Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Rd., Concord
behind In-Shape Fitness
next to Clayton Valley Bowl

WE DIG ROCKS

Gems • Jewelry • Minerals
Fossils • Meteorites
Flourescent Room
Beads • Findings
Tools • Equipment
Demonstrations • Displays
Kids Activities
Door Prizes • Raffle • Auction
Snacks • Food • Drinks

A CALL FOR THE SHOW PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Anyone can act on this committee; we need 3 to 4 club members to act as LEADS and some additional members to help each of them on smaller tasks.

Show Chair: Mike Hopkins

Assistant show chair:

Layout, work with each LEAD:

LEADS:

Advertising and promotion-Mike Hopkins, unless someone wants t take this on

Venders and demonstrators

Auction / Raffle

Cases

Food service

Organizing volunteers to work the show, Set-up and tear-down

Other stuff: Badges, signs, banners

Please contact me if interested in helping to plan the 2021 show.

Michael Hopkins - mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

(925) 570 – 4179

SHOW EXHIBITORS WANTED!

It is already September. That means the show is only two months away. Our dealers are coming together nicely, so now I am concentrating on Exhibitors and Demonstrators. Do you have a rock talent that you can show people how you do? I need someone who does beading. Not sure how to demonstrate your skill? Call me up and tell me what you do.

Exhibitors! We have 43 cases to fill and so far only 11 members have turned in their forms. I already know that a few of you do mean to display but have not yet filled out your forms. Call or text me at 510 693-9075 or email me at kellyplumb900@yahoo.com (be sure to put "Exhibitor" in the subject line) and I will e-mail or mail you the form, or you can pick one, or more forms at the next meeting. Do you collect fossils? Minerals? A particular type of rock? Pictures of outhouses that were taken on rock hounding trips have been displayed in the past. The Ideas are endless. Kid's displays welcome!

YOU the members, put together the displays to showcase the numerous facets of our hobby.

Whatever your favorite thing is, please offer to show it off! There is no such thing as a boring display topic. After all it interested you didn't it?

I am asking each exhibitor to fill one Exhibitor form for each case. Please return them to me or Cheryl Morgan by October 12th. The club has 43 cases available to loan to exhibitors so there should be one for you. However, it will be first come first served. Dimensions are on the application form. If you have your own case and would prefer to use it there is a space to indicate that and give the dimensions of your case. We are looking forward to seeing just how creative you are. See you at the show!



Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Annual Show November 6 & 7, 2021
Centre Concord, Concord, CA

Exhibitor Application
(one application per case)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION: _____

Do you have your own case? _____ Size: Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

I need to borrow a Club Case: _____

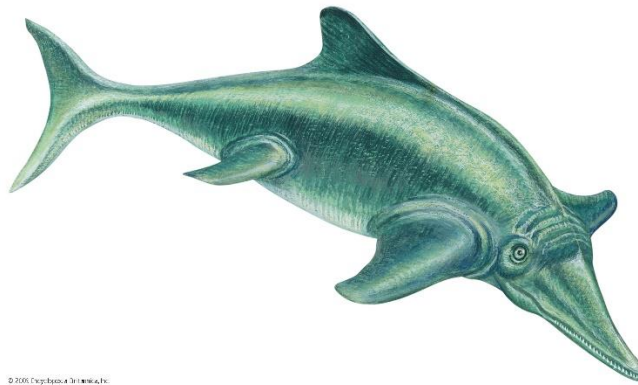
We have a limited number of cases to loan, on a first come basis. The club does not provide liners or risers. Club cases inside dimensions are 46-1/4" x 22-3/4" x 22-1/4". The case sides and back are a finished light-colored wood. Two 100-watt floods illuminate from the top. **NO TAPE, STAPLES, TACKS, DRILL HOLES, OR OTHER ALTERATIONS ARE TO BE MADE TO THE CASE OR LIGHTING**

We request you include your name and your society's name in your case to let our guests know who you are and where you are from. Also, we encourage that you have a title page or include a card noting special features about your case.

EXHIBITOR'S SIGNATURE: _____.

Please complete all information on the entry form and return to the Exhibit Chairmen for acceptance and acknowledgement. Return to: **Kelly Plumb 900 Hawthorne Dr. Rodeo, CA 94572** or scan and send to kellyplumb900@yahoo.com or snap a picture and text to (510) 693-9075. If your entry is not acknowledged within 14 days, please contact the Exhibit Chairmen. Case set-up after 2:00PM on Friday November 5th. All cases must be set up by 8:00 PM on Friday or by special arrangement with the Exhibit Chair. Cases may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday. All cases must be removed at the close of the show at 5:00PM, on Sunday.

For additional information, please contact **Kelly Plumb 900 Hawthorne Dr. Rodeo, CA 94572** or kellyplumb900@yahoo.com.



Isabel Frances Bellous's poem "The Ichthyosaurus."
There once was an ichthyosaurus,
Who lived when the earth was all porous,
Be he fainted with shame
When he first heard his name,
And departed a long time before us.

As a small child I was fascinated by Dinosaurs. My favorite was Ankylosaurus because I loved his clubbed tail. No T-Rex for me. Of course my dinosaurs were all plastic. Except for a volume of "Book Trails" which contained the poem above. I loved the idea of a dinosaur that died because he had an ugly name. Now here is the real Ichthyosaurus:

The name Ichthyosaurus comes from the Greek for "fish lizard" – $\iota\chi\theta\upsilon\varsigma$ or *ichthys* meaning "fish" and $\sigma\alpha\upsilon\rho\omicron\varsigma$ or *sauros* meaning "lizard".) Ichthyosaurs were large extinct marine reptiles. They belong to the order known as Ichthyosauria or Ichthyopterygia ('fish flippers' – a designation introduced by Sir Richard Owen in 1840). Ichthyosaurs thrived during much of the Mesozoic era; based on fossil evidence, they first appeared around 250 million years ago and at least one species survived until about 90 million years ago, into the Late Cretaceous. During the Early Triassic epoch, ichthyosaurs evolved from a group of unidentified land reptiles that returned to the sea, in a development similar to how the mammalian land-dwelling ancestors of modern-day dolphins and whales returned to the sea millions of years later, which they gradually came to resemble in a case of convergent evolution. Ichthyosaurs were particularly abundant in the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic periods, until they were replaced as the top aquatic predators by another marine reptilian group, the Plesiosauria, in the later Jurassic and Early Cretaceous.

Science became aware of the existence of ichthyosaurs during the early nineteenth century, when the first complete skeletons were found in England. In 1834, the order Ichthyosauria was named. Later that century, many excellently preserved ichthyosaur fossils were discovered in Germany, including soft-tissue remains. Since the late twentieth century, there has been a revived interest in the group, leading to an increased number of named ichthyosaurs from all continents, with over fifty valid genera being now known.

Ichthyosaur species varied from 1 to 16 meters (3 to 52 ft) in length. Ichthyosaurs resembled both modern fish and dolphins. Their limbs had been fully transformed into flippers, which sometimes contained a very large number of digits and phalanges. At least some species possessed a dorsal fin. Their heads were pointed, and the jaws often were equipped with conical teeth that could help to catch smaller prey. Some species had larger, bladed teeth with which they could attack large animals. The eyes were very large, probably useful when deep diving. The neck was short, and later species had a rather stiff trunk. These also had a more vertical tail fin, used for a powerful propulsive stroke. The vertebral column, made of simplified disc-like vertebrae, continued into the lower lobe of the tail fin. Ichthyosaurs were air-breathing, warm-blooded, and bore live young. They may have had a layer of blubber for insulation.

Recognition and Membership

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

The CFMS and AFMS have a number of programs that recognize individuals, members, and societies. Every year CFMS, and by that I mean the clubs/societies and the members, have several opportunities to recognize, thank and honor one of their members or a non-member who makes a contribution to our hobby and goals. There is the Education through Sharing Award, CFMS Scholarship Honoree, AFMS Scholarship Honoree, Golden Bear Award for service to the Federation, Bulletin and author competition, and Website competition; I am sure I am missing some others. Unfortunately we struggle every year to get nominations for these awards. It is so easy to make a nomination: select a deserving person or couple that we want to honor (we have many deserving members), write a letter of nomination with the reasons they are deserving of the award and mail it to the appropriate CFMS committee. It is that easy and will make someone very proud and honored to be thought of as deserving by our society. Saying “thank you for your service” is so easy and it doesn’t cost the club anything and the rewards are great for everyone.

The All American Club competition is recognition for our whole society. It is so easy to do, just collect articles, stories, letters, pictures, etc. and make a scrapbook. In reality this is a competition of “Brag Books.” It records and documents the activities and accomplishments of our society for the year. Our club historian is collecting much of the needed documentation already. The best time to start this project is at the beginning of the year by getting the forms and the rules from the All American Club Chairman. Plan out the information to be collected and assign photographers and reporters. Collect and file this information throughout the year. Prepare our book in December and January then submit it by the end of February. It is that easy!

A special committee evaluates and scores each book against the criteria outlined in the forms, not against each other. Certificates are awarded based on the score: 70 to 79 points, Bronze Award, 80 to 89 points, Silver Award and 90 to 100 points, Gold Award. After the CFMS judging the books are sent to AFMS for judging. AFMS awards certificates and medallions based on the same scoring system.

For some reason very few clubs participate in the All American Club competition. A couple of clubs enter regularly every year or two. These clubs have a great record of their club’s activities and accomplishments. These books are a great membership tool. When a guest or prospective member asks, “what does CCM&GS do?” your All American Club “brag book” has the answers. We have participated in the past and already have the resource. Don’t hide it away in the library or someone’s bookshelf. Bring it to all of your meetings to share with the members and guests. Now is the time to start working on our All American Club book.

A few more words about member recognition. All the hard working dedicated members do what they do for the club, because they enjoy what they are doing not for medals and certificates. However, a thank you is probably well deserved and appreciated and it helps fight “burnout.” And a nomination for one of the CFMS honors really says that the club recognizes their contribution. This can help with member retention. People like to be part of an organization that recognizes and appreciates its members. I have the information about all the CFMS honors. We have members who deserves a **Big Thank You**, who should we recognize and honor this year.

Field Trip News!

Clubs are finally getting out and doing Field Trips. I know with the Delta variant a lot of us are still playing it safe, but I would love to get an idea what sorts of local field Trips club members are interested in. In past years we have gone to the black Diamond mines, The New Almaden mine museum, Capitola, Agate beach and to Pinole and Rodeo for small fossils. There is supposed to be gypsum on Lime Ridge also. If there is someplace you want to go or a special place nearby that you want to share, please tell me about it! I am currently looking for places close to home because in the past no one signs up or shows up for the more distant locations.

While we are working on some trips for our club, I want to let you know about a CFMS Roseville Rock Rollers trip coming up this month. They will be going to Topaz Mountain and the Dugway Geode Beds North West of Delta Utah from September 30th through October 3rd. I can tell you it is a fun trip and most vehicles can make it. There will be geodes, topaz, red beryl, pseudobrookite, and hematite crystals. If you are interested in a road trip contact their field trip leader is Gene Doyle at (408) 605-9457 or eugenedoyle@sbcglobal.net. I will also have their write up available at our October meeting or you can text me at (510) 693-9075 and I will text or email you back a copy.

Some nearby shows this month are:

September 11-12, 2021 – Reno, NV

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Jackpot of Gems
Reno Convention Center, 4390 S. Virginia St., Reno
Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact Dan Ellis, sailondan55@aol.com
Website: www.renogms.org

September 18-19, 2021 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM
Contact: 1 530 586-7052;
Website: <http://featherriverrocks.org>

September 24, 25, 26, 2021 – Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
45th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate. Location: Dale Evans Parkway and Stoddard Wells Road, Apple Valley, CA. Go straight on Stoddard Wells Road, will turn to dirt. Follow 7 miles to “Tailgate”. Signs will mark the road. Cars & RV’s can make it with ease, go slow. See our website for additional details and directions.
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
Free event, everyone is welcome! FREE Vendor Spaces, dry camping, restrooms available. First come, first served. All donations welcomed. Handcrafted jewelry, cabs, slabs, rough, and more. Food served breakfast & lunch. NO saving spaces or competing with VVGMS’s fundraising activities – i.e. food, drinks, grab bags, spin the wheel or auctions. Saturday field trip 9 AM – 1 PM.
Contact: (909) 234-5533, dwayna.barron@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.vvgmc.org>

October 1-3, 2021 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Vista Gem and Mineral Open Air Market
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista CA 92083
Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: 1 (760) 214-8770
Website: <http://www.vistarocks.org>

October 2-3, 2021 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Nevada County Fairgrounds, Main Street Center, 11228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95949

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

54th Annual Earth's Treasurers Show. This year's show will feature over 20 vendors, over 24 showcase exhibits, as well as an outstanding petrified wood display. There will be numerous demonstration tables, the gold panning experience, kids activities, gold specimen raffle, and much, much, more. SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!!!

As Covid 19 restrictions could be somewhat fluid in October, there may still be or be a reinstated State of California requirement for show attendees to be properly masked.

Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net

Website: <http://ncgms.org>

October 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2021, Clovis CA

Fresno Gem & Mineral Society

Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 445 Clovis, CA 93613

Time: Friday-Sunday Oct. 8th-10th – 10 AM – 5 PM, Monday Oct. 11th – 10 AM – 4 PM

Central Valley Gem & Mineral Show is sponsored by Fresno Gem & Mineral Society. The show will be held outside and indoors where vendors will be displaying and selling their rocks, minerals and fossils. From rough to cabs, from jewelry to wind chimes you will find a great variety! Adults and children will enjoy the fossilized sharks teeth, dinosaur bones, sparkling minerals in all their forms plus beautiful handcrafted jewelry.

Contact: 1 (708) 821-7575, danielbolm096@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.fgms.us/>

October 9, 2021 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Antioch Lapidary Club's Annual Artisan Jewelry and Rock Show

Antioch Lapidary Club's clubhouse, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch

Time: 10 AM – 4 PM

Directions: Take Highway 4 to Antioch; exit at A Street and go north, towards the water. Turn right on E 18th Street; go approximately 3/4 mile; turn left of Cavallo Road. Follow Cavallo, across Wilbur Avenue. You are now on Fulton Shipyard Road. Cross the railroad tracks and immediately turn right into the parking lot.

Or...Coming across the Antioch Bridge, turn right on Wilbur Avenue to Fulton Shipyard Road. Turn right, cross the railroad tracks and immediately turn right into the parking lot.

[Show Flyer](#)

Contact: (925) 240-2954, vicmcpherson@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

2021 Elected Officers:

President:

Donna Albrecht

donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

1stVicePresident/Programs:

Vacant

2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:

Kelly Plumb

510 693 9075

Secretary:

Karen Oliver

925 876 3247

Cockroach1454@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Vikki Hotopp

hotoppvikki@gmail.com

Federation Director:

Dick Pankey

(925) 439-7509

dickpankey@juno.com

2021 Appointed Officers:

Annual Show Chair

Mike Hopkins

mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

Display

Cheryl Morgan

Cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com

Hospitality

Kelly Plumb

kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Librarian

Caryl Taraldson

lynn@taraldson.net

Membership

Taylor Thompson

925 808 5168

DreamBug1157@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

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925 876 3247

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tcaskey@comcast.net

Publicity

Mike Hopkins

Refreshments

Sargent at Arms

Naomi Morgan

Webmaster

Johanna Fenton

johfenton@yahoo.com

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Like us on Facebook!

Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society

Website:

www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org

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

General meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month on Zoom, stay connected for updates.

CCMGS

P.O. Box 842

Concord, CA 94522-0842

FIRST CLASS

Member of the American and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies