



Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

Concord, CA

Vol 63, No. 1

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor

January 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi, my name is Dave Kleesattel and I'll be your rockhounds' club president for 2015. Because it's been about 8 years since I last held this office, let me reintroduce myself to the club membership. I've been a CCM&GS member since about 1997. I've held several offices, 1st Vice President (Programs), President, and Secretary. Professionally, I am a California Registered Geologist and I manage an engineering and geology branch office for a larger firm headquartered in Wyoming. I work mostly on cleaning up contaminated groundwater sites here in California, but recently started work on a project site in Alaska.

Over the years I have really enjoyed being a member of CCM&GS. For the first several years in our club, I was like many members and showed up for the monthly meetings and enjoyed the programs. Several years into my membership, I got to be closer friends with some of the older members who started showing me all the different aspects of rockhounding and lapidary. As I became more involved in the hobby, I wanted to become more involved in the club's workings.

My vision for this year is to get more members engaged in the club and active in rockhounding and the lapidary arts. We are very fortunate to have so many members who are experts in their knowledge of geology, mineralogy, gemology, and lapidary arts. We are planning some very interesting programs this year that will help you to get to know your fellow club members and hopefully get everybody more involved.

We also have some challenges this year. Our annual show is moving to August for this year due to our show hall remodeling schedule. We'll need everybody's help getting the word out, and also getting ready for the show with two fewer months to prepare. I'm confident we can do it, but it will take some effort and teamwork.

I'm looking forward to 2015; we're going to have a great year!

Board Meeting

January 7, 7:00 PM

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 12, 7:30 PM

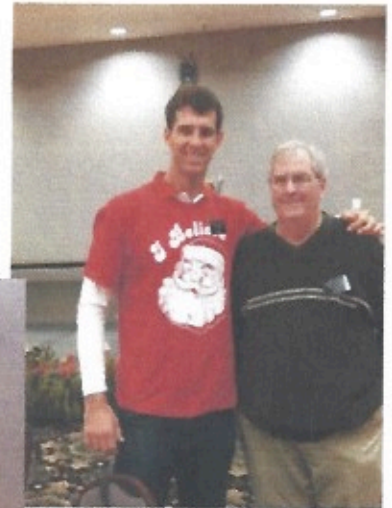
Centre Concord

JANUARY PROGRAM

Rocks, Minerals, and Gems

**Dave Kleesattel, Barrie Bieler,
and Dennis Freiburger**

Random Pictures from December Christmas Party/Officer Inauguration



Pictures by Joanne Caskey, Terry Caskey

ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!

The Holidays are safely behind us and it is time to start a fresh new year of great rock-hounding activities. I hope everyone made at least one New Years' resolution to attend more field trips, cut more cabs, attend another beading or enameling or wire wrap class, or do more of any rock-hounding activity that you enjoy.

Soon we will be starting another round of show and field trips. Don't forget to check out the Wiley Wells trip below and, closer to home let's all support our sister club, the Antioch Lapidary Club, as they prepare for their annual show which will happen on February 21 and 22, 2015 at the Contra Costa County

Fairgrounds 1201 West 10th st, Antioch, CA. There will be dealers with Gems, beads, jewelry, findings, slabs and rough. The club will have exhibits, hands-on projects for the kids, a silent auction, raffle, grab bags, and door prizes, all the things rockhounds have come to love. There will be demonstrations, including wire wrap stone setting, cabling, faceting, wire ring making, gold panning, and a visual presentation on enameling. Let's all get out and support them (and grab some treasures while we are at it!)

UP-COMING SHOWS:**January 17 - 18: EXETER, CA**

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia, Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hwy 65, Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Bill Bingaman, (559) 741-6381, Email: bandgbing@aol.com Website: www.tulegem.com

February 13 - 22: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Cabazon, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 82-503 Highway 11, Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 21 - 22: ANTIOCH, CA

Antioch lapidary Club, Antioch, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds

1201 West 10th Street, Antioch CA, Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Brenda Miguel (925) 301-6957, Email: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com

Field Trips

It's time to start 2015 with another great field trip to Area 54. Rockhound Fieldtrip Fanatics are at it again with another trip to Area 54 on January 11, 2015 from 9am to 4:30pm. Area 54 is in the Panoche Hills in Western Fresno County. Everyone will meet at the Chevron Travel Plaza off of Nee's Ave & I-5 (Exit 385), in the town of Firebaugh in Fresno County, CA. The group will depart for Area 54 at 9am.

Organized By: Kris W. Rowe Phone: **559-250-5057**. If you haven't been out to this large alluvial site, you won't be disappointed. Area 54 is a collection of farm & canal district rock piles and gravel pits in the Little Panoche Creek bed with an estimated total collecting area of over 120 acres. Jasper, agate, jade, serpentine, Blue G and chocolate magnesite are a few of the great cutting materials to be found here, mere feet from your vehicle. Most any street vehicle will easily reach this location. Sometimes there is a "tailgate" rock & slab trading sessions, so feel free to bring your trading rocks!.

Tool list: Plenty of buckets, Sturdy gloves, wide brim hat, cool weather clothing, geologists pick or small sledge hammer, sturdy shovel, medium crowbar, gallons of water, snacks, both salty & sweet. If you're looking for a comfortable RV/dry camping spot, Area 54 is great. There are many, many acres of flat parking space, with fast food and fuel less than 10 minutes away. If you're looking for a little more upscale camping experience, Mercy Hot Spring is right up Little Panoche Road, and San Luis State Recreation Area ia great, too! For folks like me, who consider "roughing it" to be a motel with no Wi-Fi, there's lodging nearby in Santa Nella & Los Banos.

Wiley Well District Field Trip January 27 - 31, 2015 Hosted by Contra Costa M&GS

The Wiley Well District is southwest of Blythe and is one of the most popular collecting areas on the Colorado Desert. Although this has been a productive area for many years, it still offers an amazing variety of material. We will collect at

several main sites; 1 or 2 sites each day. This is my eighth field trip to this interesting and productive area. Besides the more noted collecting areas we will be exploring new areas (at least new to me). This trip is open anyone that agrees to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rockhounding.

Directions to campgrounds: Exit Interstate 10 at Wiley Well Rd. which is approximately 10 miles west of Blythe and 31 miles east of Desert Center. Follow Wiley Well Rd. south for 12.5 miles to campsite on west side of road at the Riverside/Imperial Co. line. Watch for ORANGE PAPER PLATES to camp. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motorhomes and trailers to campgrounds. OK for high clearance vehicles to most collecting areas. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. This is the Mule Mtn. LTVA.

Collecting Trips: All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, **SHARP**, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip.
 Tuesday, Jan. 27 AM-- Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes.

Digging tools -- shovels, picks, gads, etc.

PM-- Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 AM-- Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging tools -- shovels, picks, gads, etc.

PM-- Explore new site --The Big Windy for agate, geodes and nodules.

Thursday, Jan. 29 AM -- Straw Bed for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes.

Digging tools -- shovels, picks, gads, etc.

PM -- South of Camp on Milpitas Wash Rd. for psilomelane.

Friday, Jan. 30 Petrified wood and fossils. Plan on a regular potluck and a soup potluck, the first on Tuesday evening, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good geodes and good material.

Please notify Dick Pankey by 1/9/15 if you plan to attend; call if you have questions or need more information: He will be at the YOTMC camp in Quartzsite from 1/11 to 1/26 (cell phone: 925-726-5914). Email: dickpankey@juno.com

Wiley Well District Field Trip

The Contra Costa M&GS will host a field trip to the Wiley Well District, southwest of Blythe, CA on January 27 - 31, 2015 at the conclusion of Quartzsite. This is one of the most popular collecting areas on the Colorado Desert. Although this has been a productive area for many years, it still offers an amazing variety of material. In the 1990's and early 2000's I led 7 trips to this great area but I haven't been there in about 8 years. We will collect at the Potato Patch, the Hauser beds/Roads end, Straw Beds, Cinnamon beds, Corn Field, the Big Windy, Old Woman Wash and explore some other sites.

The announcement flyer with more details will be available at our meetings or e-mail me and I will send you a copy. Plan on several potluck dinners (regular and a soup potluck), and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good geodes and good material. Come join us for a great rockhound time of collecting, fun and fellowship.

This trip is open to all rockhounds that agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rockhounding. Our trip will be shared with NBFT and COOP societies.

Betty and I will be Wagon Masters for the Ye Old Timers Mineral Club camp again this January. We will be camping in the same location, off of Plomosa Rd, north of Quartzsite. We plan to arrive at our campsite on or shortly before Sunday, January 11th. CCM&GS members are welcome to join us for all of the fun activities at the YOTMC camp at Quartzsite for all or part of our 2 week stay. We have daily happy hours, evening campfires, potlucks, bingo, field trips and a lot of fun.

Please notify me by 1/9/15 if you plan to attend. Call or email me if you have questions or need more information:

Dick Pankey
 Field Trip Leader
 Ph. 925-439-7509
 Email: dickpankey@juno.com

CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY www.ccmgs.org

P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (*Third Monday of the month in June*)
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, (Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles northwest on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road) Cross street Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Valley Bowl, free parking

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Junior \$1

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

Board and Committee Members 2014

Please do not publish this list, Editor

President

Dave Kleesattel
daveklees@aol.com

Publicity
Rana Miller-Owen

Historian
Hazel Woolsey
925 837 3287

1st Vice President, Programs
Dennis Frieburger
Dennisfrei@aol.com

Property
Therese Clark
925 674 7055

Education
Open

2nd Vice president, Field Trips
Kelly Plumb
510 799 4633
Kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Hospitality
Debbie Blevins
925-680-6562

Refreshments
Vickie Hotopp

Secretary
Mary Hicks
925 779 0698
maryhicks@comcast.net

Display
Paul Black
925 212 3255
challengerdev@comcast.net

Membership
Mary Jernigan
(925) 852-1133
M10jernigan@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Mary Hanjes
925 932 4345
b0sc057@gmail.com

Librarian
Paul Black
925 212 3255
challengerdev@comcast.net

Bulletin Editor
Terry Caskey
925 689 2119
tcaskey@comcast.net

Federation Director
Dick Pankey
925 439 7509
Dickpankey@juno.com

Show
Harry Nichandros
925 674 7055
[Nichandros\[at\]juno\[dot\]com](mailto:Nichandros[at]juno[dot]com)

Past President
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