



Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"



Concord, CA

December 2012

Vol 60, No.12

This Newsletter is available by E Mail - contact the Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WE HAD AN AMAZING SHOW! Our members really pulled thru this year. We had 90% member participation. WOW! See Mary Hicks' article in the *Show Express* for more information.

Several issues arrived in the last few days before the show. Harry handled them all. He really earned his stripes this year. Sometimes it's not easy being Show Chairman. We lost 4 dealers in the 5 days before the show. Oh my! We arrived for set-up and heard we had to be out of the ballroom by 9 pm on Sunday. As things turned out, not only were we out by 9, but Howard pulled out with the

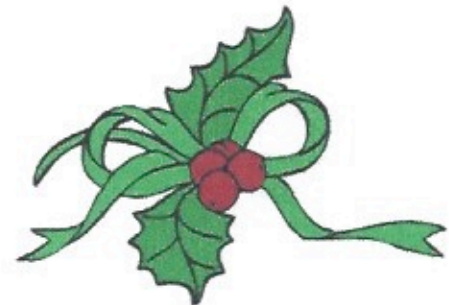
trailer at 8:30! Everyone did an amazing job to get this accomplished. We were successful because of all of you! THANK YOU ALL!!!!

December is our Holiday Party and Installation Dinner – this month with an Italian theme. The club provides ham, turkey, soft drinks, and water. After the Installation of Officers we have special presentations to a few members. Don't miss the fun.

At our Holiday Party we also have our annual canned food drive. Along with your potluck dish please bring in a few cans (no glass) from your cupboard to help those in need during this holiday season. Last year our club contributed over 200 pounds of food. Let's see if we can top that this year. Many, many thanks to the Buftons for keeping this wonderful tradition alive and well in our club.

May the holiday season bring you much love, great friends, and good health in 2013.

Therese Clark
President



Next General Meeting

Monday, December 10 6:00 PM

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Christmas Italian Style

December Program

ITALIAN HOLIDAY PARTY

The Holiday Decorating Committee has been busy making the table centerpieces that will be given away as prizes at our Italian Holiday Party, Monday, December 10th. Doors open at 6:30p.m. We will eat at approximately 7p.m. This is also our general meeting and installation of club officers.

Please bring an Italian potluck food dish to share and serving utensils to dish it out. The club will provide the plates, eating utensils and cups. You can dress up in Italian fashions if you like and bring a WRAPPED rock related gift to put by the tree if you want to participate in the gift exchange - it's a \$5 maximum. Mark your gift with "M" if it's for a Man and "W" for a Woman. Also, don't forget to bring your food bank donations. We hope everyone can make it to our fun end of the year Holiday Party.

Pam Harris
Hospitality



HUNGRY?

A reminder that the Christmas potluck and meeting is December 10th. Also, if possible, please remember to bring canned and/or packaged food items for donation to the Contra Costa Food Bank along with your gourmet Italian dish (Yum!)

List of needed food items:

- Canned- Meats, Fish, Soups, Fruits, Juices, etc.
- Packaged- Beans, Cereals, Pasta, Rice, Coffee, Cocoa, etc.
- Plastic Containers- Peanut Butter, Sauces, Salad Dressings, etc.

Please no glass containers or perishables.

The Food Bank and hungry families thank you for your generosity.

Mary and Mark Bufton

New Articles for January *Diablo Diggins*

Due Date December 17, 2012

Board Meeting

Wednesday December 5, 6:30 pm

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CCM&GS General Meeting Nov. 12, 2012.

President- Therese Clark opened the General Meeting at 7:33pm welcoming Club members and guests. Pledge of Allegiance led by Therese. Jr. Member - Kyle Hunter collected quarters from members who had forgotten their badges.

Therese Clark had a special request from Dick Pankey to acknowledge our veterans since today was Veteran's Day. Therese asked all veterans in the room to please stand up so we could thank them for their dedication and service to our country. Thank you, Veterans. You are greatly appreciated!

Hospitality - Pam Harris thanked the CCM&GS members for their heartfelt sympathy during the recent passing of her father, Doug Ellis. Doug was a beloved member of our CCM&GS family and an active participant in the copper enameling classes taught by Joe Yarbrough

CCM&GS Holiday Italian Potluck Dinner- December 10th, Doors open at 6:30pm. Dinner is at 7:00 pm. Pam reminded everyone that the evening was an Italian theme. The Holiday Decorating Committee has been busy creating gorgeous center pieces for the dinner. The Club will provide the ham and turkey for the dinner. Please bring a potluck dinner to share and serving utensils, too. Gift Exchange- If you want to participate, please bring a wrapped gift (rock hobby related) maximum value \$5. Gift exchange tickets will be passed out. Please indicate if your gift is for a man or woman. Donation to Food Bank - bring a non-perishable item if you can.

Door prize tickets for guests and members were drawn. Five guests attended this evening. Door prizes included Australian ribbon jasper, Black Rock agate, Utah geode and a special item from Tim Unruh, our guest speaker.

Donations to the Contra Costa Food Bank - Member Mark Bufton asked Club members to please bring non-perishable food items to the Holiday Dinner for donations to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Mark's parents, Jim & Mary Bufton began this tradition many years ago with the CCM&GS Club. Items needed include canned meat & fish, soup, canned vegetables & tomato products, powdered milk, peanut butter in plastic containers, fruit juice, dry beans and pasta. Your donations will help families in need within our community. Thank you, Bufton Family, for continuing this important food collection drive!

Membership- Mary Hicks received three membership applications tonight. 2013 Membership dues are due.

Please see Mary to pay your CCM&GS membership dues or to become a new member. We had great membership participation for the 2012 Annual Club Show, 90% of the CCM&GS members were able to help make the Club Show a big success! President- Therese Clark gave a personal thanks to everyone that helped out with the Show.

Newsletter Editor- Terry Caskey asked for articles and photos to be submitted as soon as possible. Due date for the Diggins' Newsletter is November 18th. Send information early if possible due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Federation Director- Dick Pankey attended the recent CFMS meeting in Visalia. Dick turned in the stamps and the nickel collection from our Club. CCM&GS collected \$65 in the 'Half Million Nickel' drive for the CFMS Endowment Fund. At the Holiday Dinner, Dick will announce the CCM&GS's member who received the prestigious CFMS 'Education Through Sharing Award', nominated by the CCM&GS Club.

First Vice-President/ Show- Harry Nichandros told the membership that things were already in the works for the next year's show. It was great seeing all the members Friday morning for set-up. The Show attendance was over 1000 paid attendance. The Dealers were very happy. Parking was the best this year with more nearby parking for visitors. Thank you, CCM&GS members for parking in the requested areas.

President- Therese Clark asked all members to stand up that helped with the 2012 Club Show. Members stood up that were part of the Club Show as demonstrators, exhibitors, set-up/tear down crew, front desk, silent auction, raffle, Diablo Dan Cafe, brought desserts and everything else. The room was full of active CCM&GS members. Thank you, Everyone!

2nd Vice-President- Kelly Plumb told us that the fieldtrips were wrapping up for this year, but more were being planned for next year. If you have ideas for fun fieldtrips, please contact Kelly.

Upcoming trips- Wiley Wells over Thanksgiving weekend may be rainy, Shark Tooth Hill fieldtrip is still pending details.

Education- Donna Albrecht told members that two great classes were coming up. Also see the Newsletter for more classes. Nov. 17th- Beaded Cabachons with Barbara Goldsmith, Dec. 1st- Gem Trees with Mary Hicks.

Display- Paul Black told members to visit the Display Table with seventeen stones to vote on. Paul reminded everyone to honor our Veterans, especially today on Veteran's Day.

1st Vice-President/ Program- Harry Nichandros introduced the evening's speaker, Tim Unruh with 'Tektites Mimics on Earth'. Tim raised our awareness of the many impostors of meteorites and tektites found on Earth.

Is it a tektite or weathered obsidian? Tim's unique collection included meteorites, tektites and Libyan desert glass. His scientific humor captured our attention and welcomed us to inquire more about these mysterious objects. Thank you, Tim!

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.
Mary Jernigan – CCM&GS Secretary

Spare Rocks and Minerals

I am in the process of starting 13 new sets of rock/mineral identification kits for our Silent Auction at next year's Annual Show. If anyone is interested in donating golf-ball size rocks to the club, I'm interested in collecting them and adding them to the kits. I will need 13 of each specimen. (Sadly, you'll have to be able to tell me what they are because I am severely challenged in that department.)

Obsidian Needles would be a real treat if you have any.

Please contact Debbie Blevins at 925-680-6562 or OHB@Astound.net if you would like to contribute or if you have questions.

Thank you very much.

Lost & Found

Larry and I ended up with an extra pyrex dish from the kitchen during this year's show. If anyone went to the kitchen to retrieve their pyrex dish and if it wasn't there, it's because Larry (not me) ☺ grabbed it along with ours.

Please call me and we'll make arrangements to get it back to you. 925-680-6562

Thanks,

Debbie Blevins

Please join us for the December

Holiday Potluck

Date: Monday, December 10

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Centre Concord

Bring:

- Potluck dish of your choice
- Rock-related gift (If you want to join in the gift exchange)
- Donation for the Food Bank
- (Club supplies ham and turkey)

Events:

- Dinner
- Club Officers Installation
- Member Awards
- Gift Exchange
- Entertainment
- Fun for Everyone



Random pictures from our show

By Mary Jernigan



**DECEMBER MONTHLY
BEAD-IN**

December 14th, Friday, is our next get-together. Bring along your idea(s) and materials for making holiday themed bead and/or wire decorations or jewelry.

Bring a light snack to share. We are making eggnog!!!

My House at 6:00 PM

Joanne Caskey
925 689 2119



ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!



Kelly Plumb

It is that time of year again! The turkeys are once again feeling safe (I saw a huge flock of over 20 birds in the neighbors' yard yesterday.) Santa is revving up his reindeer and getting ready to visit all of you good little (and big) rockhounds and pebble pups! I bet this is the only group of people I know who

could find a lump of coal in their Christmas stocking and think: "Oh! He remembered! I wonder how Santa liked the field trip to the Black Diamond Mines?"

Speaking of field trips, I still keep seeing the December trip to sharks tooth hill, but no time or details. I will keep checking and hopefully have more information in time for our potluck dinner. Feel free to contact me any time to let me know what types of field trips you want to go on next year. Mariposite, whale bone, obsidian, or silver pick are some of the possibilities I am considering.

I just joined "Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics" and they are having a "Last Blast" field trip to Madera County for Chialstolites, jasper, agate, jade, serpentine, Blue G and chocolate magnesite on Sunday December 30th. I have RSVPd that I "might" come. If anyone else is interested, give me a call and I will get you in contact with the field trip leaders.

While the weather is not terribly field trip friendly in the next month or three, we still have plenty of shows to attend and silver pick our favorites.

December 1 - 2: BARSTOW, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Cora Harper Community Center

841 South Barstow Road (North of I-15) Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Gene Haines, (760) 256-0595 Email:

email@mdgms.org

Website: www.mdgms.org

December 7 - 9: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, Western Regional Little League Ball Park

6707 Little League Drive Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily

Website: <http://OBMSrocks.volasilite.com>

February 15 - 24, 2013: INDIO, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

46-530 Arabia Street Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674

Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 15 - 16, 2013: ANTIOCH, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club, Contra Costa County Fair Grounds

1201 west 10th St Antioch, CA Hours: 10-5 Saturday and Sunday

Contact: Brenda Miguel (925) 301 6957

Don't forget! Antioch is our almost "sister" club since so many of us are members of both clubs. Maybe that explains why they have such a good show every year too! Those of you who have been regular exhibitors and demonstrators for Antioch will be hearing from me soon to get your commitment for this show! Not already a demonstrator or exhibitor for Antioch? Please let me know if you are interested in participating this year.

Suspects in Mariposa museum theft plead not guilty

From The Fresno Bee

Monday, Nov. 19, 2012 | 11:24 PM

Three of the four suspects charged in connection with a brazen heist of gold and gems from a state museum in the Sierra foothills have pleaded not guilty to robbery and other charges on Monday.

The fourth man charged, did not enter a plea. He was ordered to return to court today.

Prosecutors say during the Sept. 28 robbery of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa the four men made off with \$1.3 million worth of gold, gems and artifacts.

Investigators say some of the stolen loot has been recovered, but have not said how much.

The suspects are being held on \$1 million bail.

CFMS Director's Meeting

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

For about 20 years now Betty and I have camped in the back parking lot at the Holiday Inn in Visalia for the weekend of the Directors' meeting. There used to be 10 to 15 rigs for this weekend. This year there was one other camper. It was too cold and breezy for a happy hour on Friday but about a half a dozen people joined us on Saturday evening before the banquet.

Friday afternoon was the Executive Committee meeting; in the evening there was the Cracker Barrel which is an informal get-together for socializing and sharing of ideas. The Directors' meeting was held Saturday morning and concluded at about 1:30. Saturday evening was the banquet to install the 2013 officers. The meeting concluded Sunday morning with the new president's change over meeting with the other new officers and the committee chairs. A full weekend conducting the business of the Federation.

Directors' Meeting highlights:

- *The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge to the Flag. I was called upon to give the Invocation and an In Memoriam for recently deceased members.*
- *There was a very good turnout of directors. 61 directors representing approximately 114 societies; there were 5 officers and 26 committee chairs. When a society does not have a director present their society does not have a voice in the business of the Federation.*
- *The CFMS lost 2 more societies this past 6 months: the Willits G&MS, and the Superior California Association disbanded. One new society was accepted by the CFMS; the Gold Country Treasure Seekers from Placerville.*
- *The 2012 Show was hosted by the Valley Prospectors in Riverside, CA. They presented the Federation with a check for \$921 for the Federation's share of the proceeds. While this was a very good show and convention it was not as profitable as other recent shows.*
- *The 2013 show will be co-hosted by 3 Ventura area societies at the Ventura Fairground on May 30 and June 2 & 3. I have the Show packet with registration, competitive and non-competitive forms and information about the attractions around the area. Contact me for more information and copies of the forms. Betty and I are planning to attend and to exhibit. Attendance and exhibiting is open to all members. If you would like to attend or just want more information please contact me.*
- *The Federation is still looking for societies to host the 2014 show and beyond. Fortunately 4 societies have asked for additional information and hopefully one or more will host a future show.*
- *The officers for 2013 were elected: President - **Bud McMillin**, 1st VP - **Jennifer Haley**, 2nd VP - **Tom Burchard**, and Secretary - **Robert Sankovich** and Treasurer - **Margaret Kolaczyk**.*
- *The 2013 Budget was approved with revenues of approximately \$91,150 and expenses of approximately \$96,150. This is a projected loss of \$5,000 which will have to come from the general fund and is less than other recent budget short fall. The loss is due to declining membership and low show profits.*

- *No change in the dues and insurance for 2013. The dues are \$1.25 to the CFMS and \$.75 to the AFMS per member. The insurance is \$6.00. Total due to CFMS is \$8.00 per member which is the same for the last few years.*
- *All American Club – there were 3 entries this year. The due date for the 2012 entries is February 28, 2013. It is basically too late for us to put together a book for 2012 but it is the perfect time to start planning for a 2013 submission. Basically you prepare a “Brag Book”; a scrap book of our society’s activities and accomplishments following an entry form detailing the requirements. It is the current history of the your society. Who would like to serve on the committee to put this book together for CCM&GS for 2013? Contact me for more information.*
- *June Harris accepted the position as Bulletin Aids Chair at the last minute. She already has the 2012 Bulletin Contest forms on the CFMS web site.*
- *Mary Ann King is the Cab Cases – North representative. She took and displayed the CFMS cab cases to a total of 19 shows. Most recently they were at our show. Did you see them?*
- *Earth Science Studies. The one week Camp Zyzzx is scheduled for March 31 to April 7. The cost will be \$375 for room, meals and most class supplies. If you use your own RV there is a \$50/person discount. See me for more information and application forms.*
- *Education Through Sharing. Only 8 societies recognized one of their members with this honor this year. CCM&GS was one of the 8 societies. Come to our Holiday Party in December to learn who this honored person is.*
- *I turned in \$65.20, the equivalent of 1305 nickels, to the Endowment Fund’s Half Million Nickel Collection. A couple of societies did collect several hundreds of dollars but most collections were in the \$40 to \$80 range. A final report will be in the CFMS Newsletter.*
- *Colleen McGann is the CFMS Representative to the AFMS Endowment Fund Committee. She is soliciting donations from CFMS artisans and members for raffle prizes. I will have raffle ticket for sale next spring. Drawing is held at the AFMS Show in September.*
- *There were nominations from the societies for CFMS Scholarship Honorees therefore 3 CFMS scholarships will be awarded for 2013 and one Diedrick Scholarship. There are sufficient funds for scholarships but they can only be given out by an honoree nominated by a CFMS society. The CCM&GS may nominate an honoree to recognize the service of one of our members to education.*
- *Membership in the CFMS is declining, both societies and individuals. In 2000 there were approximately 150 societies with 11043 individuals. Now in 2012 there are 114 societies with only 9254 individuals. A few societies are growing, many are stable/stagnant and more than a few are made up of elderly people and have a dim future for surviving. A society grows and prospers through involved members that participate in the operation of the society (holds an office or is on a committee) and attends*

meetings, shows and functions. Are you contributing to the survival and growth of CCM&GS?

- *Museum Com.: Debbie Bunn has completed the inventory of the Federation's museum property - unique minerals, fossils, specimens, petrified wood and jewelry.*
- *I turned in a **BIG** bundle of stamps to **Debbie Bunn** who collects them for the Easter Seals Society in the name of CFMS. Thanks to all of you that saved and gave me stamps over the past year. Saving stamps has been an ongoing project of the Federation, which is a moneymaker for the Easter Seal Society. It is easy to help; just cut any and all stamps from you mail, put them in an envelope or zip lock bag and give them to me. I will turn them in at Federation meetings.*
- *Betty reported that there were only 4 donations to the AFMS Scholarship Fund since June. Donations are way down.*
- *The Junior Rockhounds of America is a program sponsored and fully funded by the AFMS. Five new badges were added this year for a total of 20 badges that can be earned. This badge program is similar to the scouts program.*

If you want to know about the CFMS and this recent directors meeting I have the complete meeting packet that has the agenda, minutes of the May 2011 meeting, committee reports, Treasurer's report and other Federation business. I will have it available at the next few Board meetings and general membership meetings.

EDUCATION

Time to take a breather. We've finished our classes for 2012 and they were great! We had field trip etiquette, mineral identification, silver work, creating beaded cabochon pendants and many, many more.

We're hoping to offer a class on how to use a dremel in March, so keep an eye out! What class would you like to take? Let me know and I'll try to find a great teacher and set it up!

Happy Holidays,

Donna Albrecht
Education Chair

Thank you everyone who put a display in our show. They were all outstanding and helped to make our beautiful show even more beautiful.

Ann Matthews

Very special thanks to our two Junior members who put displays in our show, Taylor Thompson and Kyle Hunter. Taylor was busy during the show helping the kids make "meteorites". Kyle was by his case to tell the public about the California State Gemstone - Benitoite which he personally collected.

Most people in this state have no idea we have official state emblems.

Including Benitoite, there is the State Mineral - Gold, the State Rock - Serpentine, the State Fossil - *Similodon californicus* (Sabre-tooth cat).

Another Junior member, William Kates, helped at the Spin the Wheel table. He made some of the items for the wheel. We have other Junior members who may have helped at the show also.

available off and on as our visitors arrived and departed.

Thank you. Let's do it again next year.

Show Committee

Lost & Found

The following lost items were found at the Concord Gem Show, November 3-4, 2012. If you think these items belong to you, call the Show Chairman at (925) 289-0454 or send an email to ccmgs.org/contact_us.



- **Kids:** "My Rock Collection" card with nine rocks from the youth activity room. The name on the card is Komsas M.
- **Kids:** Make Your Own Meteorite from the youth activity room. The name on it is Isaiah.

- **Kids:** Painted Rock from the youth activity room. Brown cat with two black stars to the left.
- **Desserts:** Aluminum baking pan, 9"x13"x2" (wld) from the kitchen.
- **Desserts:** Aluminum baking dish, 8"x10"x2" (wld) from the kitchen.
- **Dealers:** Plastic Tub 8"x12"x 5" (wld) marked "Ruby Zoisite, \$1/lb" (cracked)
- **Other:** Walkie-Talkie. Please tell us what brand you lost and what channel it is on.

Lost & Found is located at the front desk in the Show lobby. Next year if you find or loose something, please check there first. After the show, unclaimed items are stored for a year, and often brought to the next show (depending on value).

Credit cards, check books, and other financial instruments are turned into the Centre Concord office off the Show lobby, phone: (925) 671-3466, fax: (925) 671-3467.

Time Lapse

How a Show Is Made

The unsung heroes of our show are those who build and dismantle the show without accolades and without fanfare. Shown in the nine photos below are time-lapse photos of the central Ballroom from early Friday setup through late night Sunday teardown.

The central photo is our show as we present ourselves to the public Saturday through Sunday, 10-5. The other eight photos are the behind the scenes, hard work of our members as they transform a vacant ballroom into a world-class gem show. How does it happen? Take a look:

1. Table layout (Fri morning)
2. Table setup & skirting
3. Dealer setup
4. Ready for the Show (Friday eve)
5. The Show: It's happening!
6. Dealer teardown (Sun evening)
7. More dealer teardown
8. De-Skirting & table removal
9. It's done... Time to load the trailer

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

www.ccmgs.org

Editor-Terry Caskey

Send reports to tcaskey@comcast.net

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

Members meet the second Monday of each month (third Monday in June) at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Ca 94521 (Clayton Faire Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Rd and Balham Dr, next to Clayton Valley Bowl).

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, Ca 94596

First Class

Member of American and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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December 2012