



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

Concord, CA

Vol 62, No. 5

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor

May 2014

Presidents Message



Thanks to everyone who brought rocks to share at our last meeting. It was a real treat to hear so many people talk about the rocks that have special meaning to them!

If you have any thoughts on the venue beyond what you entered on the evaluation slip, be sure to let Harry, me, or any Board member know so we can make the best decisions about the venue for meetings into the future.

It seems to me as if we rockhounds have only two seasons a year. One is Show Season when we visit local club shows and maybe go to Tucson if we're lucky. The second is Collection Season when we go out and try to find rocks on our own or in groups. As we're leaving Show Season behind for this year, I wish you all good hunting as you search for your next perfect rock!

Best,
Donna

Next General Meeting
Monday, May 12, 7:30 PM
Centre Concord

Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 PM

New Articles for June *Diablo Diggins*
Due Date May, 19 2014

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May Program

Photographing Rocks & Minerals

When I saw the masterful photography of Matt Wood, I knew he was on to something. His photography of rocks and minerals is some of the best I have ever seen.. And when I found he would share his photographic skills and techniques with us at our May meeting, I knew we would be in for an evening not to be missed.

Matt will talk about methods to help us take better photos of our collections. "These things we love can be surprisingly difficult to photograph as they reflect and refract, turn partly invisible, and sometimes even glare at you!", he says. "But, you can take good photographs, even with inexpensive equipment."



Himalayan Quartz, Himachal Pradesh, India at ~15k feet. Optical clarity (basically, water clear). Very impressive – I haven't been this excited about quartz in a long time! And I traded this one back for a bigger specimen. Photo by Matt Wood.



Matt's introduction to mineral appreciation, collecting and photography had substantial roots going back to his young childhood. He elaborates in his own words:

"My parents got into mineral collecting in the early 1970s, and my mother struck up an instant friendship with a 90-year old gentleman in Woodstock, N.Y. They spent several years working together on wild, sculptural silver pieces.

Azurite, Malachite, Chrysocolla Cab (detail 2): New shots of an old favorite.... This is part of a polished, domed, irregularly shaped cab. These were taken with a 105mm Nikon micro lens very close up. Big Rock Candy Mountain. Photo was used in the 2009 Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Gem Show promotion. Photo by Matt Wood.

"My father loved to cut and polish stones and was a fine craftsman, so mom had them made to order for her pieces. Later, she got into gold wire-wrap with natural stones, and beads as well.

"I was here on the west coast by the time they started getting interested in minerals and jewelry, but when I saw the beauty of the minerals I was instantly hooked. I started a modest collection, and mom came out to teach me wire wrap while I lived on my boat in Alameda. (Try keeping a mineral collection on a boat – not easy.)

"In 1973 I got my first good camera and started photographing everything in sight, including some awful photos of minerals.

"I've continued to be an avid collector and photographer through the years, and during the dot-com bust even went to the *Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts* for awhile, though I've gravitated more naturally to lapidary work for enjoyment."

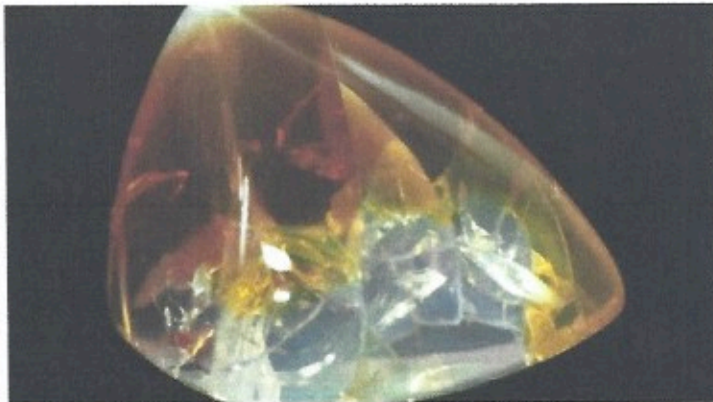
Recently, Matt established a monthly photography group at SCVGMS to help members become better rock, mineral, and jewelry photographers.

For a preview of his work, take a look at the four images accompanying this article. For more, see a gallery of his work at [Wood's Stoneworks and Photo Factory](#).

And for much more, join us May 12...

Enjoy a great evening of brilliant mineral photography while learning the techniques of Matt Wood, a master photographer.

By Harry Nichandros
Program Chairman



The Jelly Opal: Butte, Oregon. This is a close-up of the jelly opal featured in *Tai Jaide and the Jelly Opal*. It's a favorite of mine too. Nikon F3, Kodachrome 25 (Old skool). *Photo by Matt Wood.*



Pentgonite with Calcite: India. Specimen is 1-3/4" high by 1" wide at its widest point. Nikon D2X, 60mm Nikon micro lens with attached PK-11a, 12, and 13 extension rings to get as close as I could without a bellows. Photo was used in the 2009 Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Gem Show promotion. *Photo by*



CCM&GS April BOD Meeting Minutes

President Donna Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm, April 10, 2014. Meeting was held at her home in Concord, CA. Present at the meeting: Donna Albrecht, Harry Nichandros, Mary Hicks, Debbie Blevins, Therese Clark, Hazel Woolsey, Dick Pankey, and Mary Hanjes. Not present: Terry & Joanne Caskey, Paul Black, Kelly Plumb. Minutes from Directors meeting, March 2014 were not moved for approval as some had not received the newsletter or had inadvertently left comments at home.

1st VP Programs Harry Nichandros. The meeting room at the Pleasant Hill Community Center holds 85 people so there will be fewer tables but it should work. Harry met with Centre Concord manager and asked if the club's monthly Monday meeting is being discouraged. The response was that this was not their intent. There is no program identified for May at this time. April program by President Donna Albrecht is as stated in the newsletter, bring a rock and share a story.

Publicity Joanne Caskey. Not present. President Donna will ask publicity to contact schools to try to get younger like minds to come to the club meetings.

Property Chair and Past President Therese Clark. She has accepted the responsibility of Property Chair, Thank You for taking on this critical job. Historian Hazel Woolsey may have a pane of glass that will fit a club case. There are fifteen cases that need some sort of repair. Trailer is being moved to storage at Blum Road next week by Chuck Olsen.

Secretary Mary Hicks, handed out mail to Dick Pankey from AFMS, other items held for Editor Terry Caskey and a returned newsletter for Publicity Joanne Caskey.

Treasurer, Mary Hanjes answered questions from last months BOD review of the budget report. Quicken is very difficult to work with and does not lend to making reports in formats requested by the BOD. She has to put information into Excel to try to come up with a budget and the only part of Quicken that works well is the Check Register. Discussion of how to delete unused or duplicate categories ensued. Mary said Therese Clark and she had previously attempted this task, with limited success, to adjust the

categories to fit the Club financial activities. Harry Nichandros objected to the BOD having input on deleting or modifying the Chart Of Accounts (Quicken categories) in a willy-nilly fashion. Thank you Mary for keeping on this job with these imbedded program difficulties. The following items were discussed. 12 The CD interest is the interest in the checking acct. interest, no interest is earned on the checking account itself. There are three categories on interest which is confusing. This is an example of why categories need to be adjust. Unfortunate, Quicken has some default categories that remain. 92 The planned meetings for the Federation Director expense needs to be adjusted to \$900.00 This request documented on paper was submitted in January. Confusing categories for the Library, move \$200 from 104 to 132. Discussion about Remembrance books ensued. The club currently has no Librarian. 152 Newsletter is not a category but a title. 153 Printing and Postage adjusted from \$1400 to \$900.00. 154 Newsletter supplies adjust from \$30 to \$100. 200 Show Administrative expense leave at \$370. 246 Show insurance adjust \$170 to \$425. 169 Other property expense, Harry says we will have a non-reoccurring expense this year of about \$1000 due to moving club property and new shelving costs. Brief discussion occurred about better program setup to capture show expenses. Such as the storage expense is predominantly show related and therefore should be reflected as a show expense. Harry took a moment to describe the custom shelving he is preparing to order for the new storage unit. 167 Storage the \$1350 increases to \$1800 which has been the annual cost for some years. Dick Pankey asked that fields 268 and 269 be filled in with the totals. They had been on the previous report but in transferring data to the Excel worksheet something went awry.

Federation Director Dick Pankey stated the CFMS Pomona Show is a 3-day show, Friday thru Sunday, May 30, 31, June 1. The fall meeting will be in Visalia. Approval for expense of the Director to attend was moved by Mary Hicks and Seconded by Hazel Woolsey, unanimously accepted. Dick will mention the All American Book at the next General Meeting. The raffle tickets for the Mineral Collection are still available for purchase at the general meeting at \$5 each. Dick will offer tickets to the North Bay Field Trip meeting and to Antioch Lapidary Club. Raffle income to be split between the club and scholarship.

Director Dick Pankey brought up the All American Club Book competition. The book is easiest done if started early in the year and covers January thru December 2014 (documenting activities of the club and members) and is due for submission on February 28th, 2015. It is judged against set published standards. See Newsletter or Dick for information. Mineral Specimen Collection Raffle is ongoing. There are 500 tickets for sale at \$5 each. The money goes 50% to Federation Scholarship fund and 50% to our club. This mineral collection has been provided by a club member, Barrie Bieler. Thank you Barrie.

President then spoke of a comment by a member who feels that the BOD is not interested in listening to ideas. If you have ideas please call the President, come to a BOD meeting, write a letter to the Editor. We are all volunteers trying to do helpful things for the club, sorry if you do not feel appreciated. Also, please consider helping on a committee or being a chair for one of the open slots. (The end of the newsletter has elected positions listed and current chairs, their contact phone numbers and emails. A good way to learn about the various jobs is to contact the chair and volunteer to help on their committee.)

Robert Nellen said he spent 10 years working with elementary children and sees children as small people. He noticed a lot of scouts at the show; he feels the club has dropped the ball. We should have a special meeting for the cub scouts. He will do what he can to help.

President Donna was the Program lead for this month. Program Vice President Harry Nichandros introduced Donna. Her "topic" was "Rock-it To You!" Members brought a rock that they told why it was so special to them. Thank you to Mary Hanjes for bringing in the overhead projector. Here are some of the stories we heard. (I apologize if I did not get your story in my notes.)

Therese Clark said an elementary class of hers thought all rocks were like grey gravel. She brought in a colorful and patterned rock collection. Her student's eyes were open to this wonder of nature. One member had a pretty piece of fluorite that someone had mistaken for an Alexandrite. Another

member said she carries a gift rock with her all times that came from Mt. Tam. Dick Dennis had a round rock that is a lava bomb. Robert Nellen had two pieces of petrified wood he has had for 60 years. It came from the Colorado Nebraska border area where he hunted rocks for entertainment with his grandparents. George Mahoney handed around a beautiful slab of chrysoprase he purchased as a teenager. He passed up the chance to purchase a (new on the market) tanzanite. Mary Hanjes first special rock was a fluorite but she brought in a kunzite crystal that she collected near San Diego, CA. Gary Casillas had whale bone from Capitola which is still imbedded in matrix of sandstone and shells. He spied this great piece when he stopped on the beach to tie his shoe. Dick Pankey had bituminous coal from Galatia, Ill., from the Pankey Coal Mine. It was his great-grandfather's mine and he is waiting for the big bucks. Kelly Plumb had a piece of fossiliferous sandstone from Rodeo that has clam shells and a beautiful wire wrapped pendant she made. She collected rocks with her parents and started doing cabs at 12 years old. Harry Nichandros said his first field trip at Snyders Pow Wow got him going. Heinz Drier lent him two buckets to collect with and he found Valley Springs agate and a new friend. Betty Pankey had an awesome piece of top flow obsidian that has an intricate geometric pattern on the top of the flat thick slab. She also likes petrified wood and makes "stained glass" obsidian figures. Barrie Beiler showed two slabs of Tiger Iron from Western Australia. The colorful layered and folded pattern of "petrified asbestos" is a wonder. Paul Black spoke of 20 pre-cuts he acquired from deceased member Hawkeye Hicks at a show raffle. He is doing new projects with each stone. He has carved a fish hook, crosses, turtle shell, etc. this is Paul's Opus. Suzanne Garrett had several fossils, one a Ano Nuevo beach sand dollar, and also a belemnite and a trilobite and an oyster from Livermore gun range she collected (after hours!). Kyle Hunter has a specimen from San Benito area outside Coalinga, he was looking for demantoid garnet, and selenite. He needs help identifying his specimen. Donna Albrecht has a specimen of copper from Michigan, it is a family specimen. Mary Hicks brought a piece of snow flake obsidian from Utah, collected with her parents, Hawkeye and Ophelia Hicks. It looks like snowflakes falling in a night time sky. Harry presented Donna with a certificate of appreciation and a club coffee mug. Members were

Display Report

There are four competitive categories each month. Everyone is invited to vote on the entries in each category. The winner in each category receives a prize of five dollars, and the person who has won the most competitions for novice cab during the year will advance to "pro" status and be awarded a Diablo Dan silver pin.

Novice Cabs – No entry this month

Pro Cabs - Two entries

B – Barrie Bieler – Chalcopyrite & Quartz

D – Donna Albrecht – Horn Coral in matrix (winner)

Shape of the Month – Round - Two entries

A – Barrie Bieler – Ruby & Garnet in Zoisite

C – Donna Albrecht – Quartz 'Story Stone' (winner)

Faceted Gems – Two entries

II – Terry Caskey – Assay Button (winner)

IV – Connie Klein – Citrine

2014 Shape of the Month Cabs

January – Irregular

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June - No competition (Auction night)

July - Freeform (No symmetry)

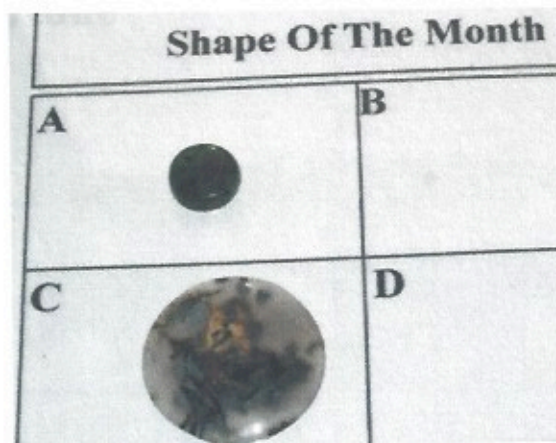
August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October - Rectangle (or Square)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Christmas party)



ROCKHOUDS ON A ROLL!

May and early June look like there is an exciting time shaping up for rockhounds this year!

The show season is well underway with something for everyone, and plenty of opportunities in reasonable driving distance. There are all sorts of field trips planned. Please remember to follow good rockhounding principles including checking in with your field trip leader, following

instructions, filling in your holes, and letting the field trip leader know if you will be leaving early. Always bring the recommended tools, layered clothing, plenty of water and snacks (or a lunch if you will be out through lunch time.)

Speaking of upcoming field trips I will not be at the May meeting. Instead, after a brief stop at the Reno show, I will be well on my way to Colorado and Wyoming for three weeks. While there Alan and I will be enjoying the desert and High Country camping, mostly we will be in search of jade, turrutella agate, petrified wood, jade, fossils, agate, Oh, and did I mention jade? At the time I am writing this the itinerary is still being hammered out, but if anyone will be out that way and wants to meet up be sure to get my phone number from the roster. Information on the field trips will be on the back table at the meeting. I plan to con one of the board members into bringing it for me. I'll report on my success (or lack) at the next meeting. Those of you on the email list will get field trip info before the 10th.

Field Trips:

5/2 - 5/4, 2014 TOPAZ MT. & DUGWAY GEODE BEDS: for Topaz crystals, Bixbite (Red Beryl), Pseudobrookite crystals and Hematite crystals. Sponsored by the Roseville Rock Rollers

6/7 Pinole Fossil Trip: Meet at 9:00 am at the old Doctors Hospital parking lot at the corner of Appian Way and Tara Hills Drive in Pinole CA. Bring collecting bag, newspapers and a butter knife. Rock hammer is optional in case I find a second location.

6/8 Spider Mine: for Rhodonite. Spidery manganese patterns in the rhodonite give the site its name. The trip is sponsored by the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society via NBFT.

6/7-8 Virgin Valley NV: for opal and **PLUSH, OR:** for sunstones hosted by the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

7/30 - 8/4, 2014 AFMS INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIP to Terry, Montana: for Fossils, Agate, etc. etc., etc. Field Trip leader is Doug True.

Shows:

May 2 - 4: BISHOP, CA: Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society, Bishop Fairgrounds, Sierra Street & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri 5 - 10; Sat 9 - 7; Sun 10 - 3, Contact: Steve Mobley, (760) 793-6025, Email: steve@littlebearrocks.com

May 3 - 4: JACKSON, CA: Amador County Gem & Mineral Society, Kennedy Mine, 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd (off Hwy 49/88), Hours: 10 - 4 daily, Margaret Kolaczyk, Email: blackwolf@volcano.net

May 3 - 4: ANAHEIM, CA: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Avenue, Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30, Contact: Robert & Sharon Burson, (562) 860-5938; cell (562) 706-2054
Email: bursonrocks@verizon.net, Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 3 - 4: PASO ROBLES, CA: Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Pioneer Park & Museum, 2010 Riverside Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 daily, Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603, Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com, Website: www.slrockhounds.org

May 3 - 4: YUCAIPA, CA: Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Scherer Senior Center, 12202 First Street, Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Lee Peterson, (909) 794-0731, Email: res09avd@verizon.net
Website: www.yvgms.org/wiki

May 10 - 11: LANCASTER, CA: Antelope Gem & Mineral Society, Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West, Hours: 9 - 5 daily, Contact: CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092,
Email: cjq_62@yahoo.com, Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

May 10 - 11: RENO, NV: Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center, 1350 N. Wells Avenue, Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Steve Norman, (775) 358-7322, cell (775) 560-4782
Email: snorm11@hotmail.com, Website: www.renorockhounds.com

May 30 - June 1: POMONA, CA: 2014 CFMS Show and Conference, Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave, POMONA, CA, hosted by the, Pasadena Lapidary Society, Show Website: www.cfms2014show.com

Mineral Collection Raffle

The Mineral Collect Raffle ticket sales were slow at the March Meeting; very slow – I sold only one ticket to this special collection. There was a lot going on, a lot of distractions and you forgot to buy your tickets. That's okay you still get your tickets at our May meeting. We are only going to sell 200 tickets and we will draw the winning ticket when the 200th ticket is sold. With only 200 tickets at \$5.00 so your chances of winning are very good. Half of the money raised will be donated to the American Federation Scholarship Fund and half will go to CCM&GS. The mineral collection consists of approximately 186 specimens that are contained in 3 metal carrying boxes. The specimens are labeled with name and state or country where found.

Whether you are a mineral collector or just like pretty rocks this mineral collection will be a great addition to your collection. I will bring the mineral collection to our monthly meetings.

It only takes one ticket to win but the more tickets you buy the better your odds are of winning. The faster we sell the 200 tickets the sooner we will have the drawing.

Dick Pankey



NORTH BAY FIELD TRIPS – TOO GOOD TO LET GO

By Kelly Plumb

Saturday April 12th Dick Pankey, Paul Black, Chuck Olson and I attended the Bi-annual meeting of the North Bay Field Trips group. This is a fantastic group of dedicated rockhounds, representing at least fourteen Northern California Rock hounding clubs from Willits to Santa Cruz. The clubs share information on field trips they are hosting. It is by virtue of our membership in this group that we are invited to join clubs like San Francisco on their field trips such as the upcoming day trip to the Spider Mine which they hold under claim. If NBFT did not exist we would not be hearing about this trip and invited to attend it.

As field trip Chairperson, it is my job to be at these meetings to represent you. What so many of us are missing is that this valuable group is NOT just for Field Trip Chairmen. It is open to all members in good standing of all of the member clubs. What is more it is a fun meeting. We have coffee and doughnuts; meet to discuss a small amount of business, share past field trip experiences and upcoming field trips open to the member groups. All attendees are asked to bring a rock(s) for the silent auction and a dish to share for the potluck luncheon. This time we had several dozen rocks to bid on including Black Butte Lake jasper, petrified wood, fossils, faceted iolite, amber cabs, angel wing agate, Wild Horse Oregon jasper, chromite, Brazilian agate, crystals and many more items, all of which sold for bargain basement prices.

So why am I bringing this up just after the meeting? In spite of both Dick and I reminding everyone at meetings that NBFT meetings are coming and are open to all, only four CCM&GS members come to the meeting. Don't get me wrong; compared to other clubs we did well. Unfortunately, our four members were 50% of the attendees. One of the topics of discussion was "should NBFT disband due to lack of interest/attendance?" This goes for meetings AND field trips. With a strong lead from Dick Pankey and his commitment to contact the other, non- attending clubs, NBFT has agreed to keep going for the present, but we have to change the apathy surrounding attendance and participation.

One idea that I want to start for our club is a direct email to interested club members about upcoming field trips. I started at the April meeting with a sign-up sheet for Contra Costa club field trips. Those of you who signed up noticed that there is also a spot to check off if you would like me to share your email address with NBFT so you can also receive their direct emails announcing NBFT meetings and field trips. I will not share your information unless you mark this section "yes."

The next NBFT meeting will be Saturday September 27th and it will be right here in Pittsburg. Dick has arranged for the meeting to be held at his church, Community Presbyterian at 200 East Leland, in Pittsburg. Mark your calendars right now and be ready to attend. Show this great group that we want them to continue!

Mosaic Class



Members Annie Stephens, Pat Howard, Connie Klein, and Joanne Caskey pose as they make beautiful mosaic yard art.



Examples of their work



Connie Klein shows off her mosaic covered bottle