



Vol. 66, No. 3

# Diablo Diggins

**Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society**

Since 1950

**"We Dig Rocks"**

This newsletter is available by email - contact the editor



Concord, CA

March, 2018



## IMPORTANT Dates for 2018



Show meetings and BOD meetings are scheduled for the following dates. March 4, No Meeting in May, June 3, July 8, August 12, Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 11, Dec. 2. Mark your calendar now. Dates are subject to change, updates will appear in the newsletter.

Kelly Plumb, President

**CCM&GS 2018 Membership Dues Are Due !**  
See Page 11 for more information.



## Diablo Diggins

Articles and photos are due the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you.



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## MARCH MADNESS!

I know a lot of us have favorite hunting grounds for our mineral specimens, and just maybe, they're not on any rockhound map. This month, we're having an opportunity to share what we find regionally and where others can find it. Bring some of your rocks (or the items you've made with them) and tell all!

For example, in less than a day's drive, I found incredible rhyolite on Avila Beach courtesy of Mary Hicks who told me about it. It's blue and brown and fun to work with. I know that Chuck Olson knows of other areas, including one up in the Wine Country where I found a really nice hunk of jade (maybe someone who went on his field trip a while back will talk about it).

After the meeting, we'll create a listing for members as a resource for the future.

If you're wondering, yes, I tried and tried for four months to get a speaker for March. I've gotten several lined up for future meetings, but no one was available for this month. So let's use this time to share that special collecting spot that someone else is just itching to find!

Donna Albrecht  
Program Chair

## GRAB BAGS

I'll be bringing boxes of fabric to the next general meeting for making grab bags for our next show. Anyone willing to make some can take a little or a lot of the fabric and sew up the bags. Some of the fabrics are really cute and the kids will love the bags as well as the rocks. Please try to get them back at the next meeting as my goal is to have them sewn, stuffed, and boxed in May so we can focus on other aspects of the show after that.

Still need a lot of tumbled rocks. I'm tumbling some, but my little machine won't be able to do enough. So if you can tumble and need rocks and/or grit, let me know ([Donna-at-Albrechts.com](mailto:Donna-at-Albrechts.com)) and I'll see to it that you get what you need. If you have any amount of tumbled rocks hanging around your house or shop from previous projects, please bring them to the next meeting. I'm also interested in smallish crystal samples for the bags where we'll be including a small magnifying glass. Kelly told me how to make largish groups of crystals into smaller ones. First you soak the crystal group, freeze it, and while it's still frozen, wrap it in a towel and gently tap with a hammer. Bingo! Small crystal groups.

Donna Albrecht

(See Next Page for more Grab Bag Information)

# GRAB BAGS GET GOING!

The Grab Bags are an incredibly popular item during our annual show and the kids smiling faces when they discover the treasures they've gotten are heartwarming.

Because there's so much going on in the months leading up to the show, let's get these prepared early—like by the end May. They keep very well ☺ and it will take off pressure later in the year. So, we gave out over 250 bags this year, and that's our minimum goal to produce for this year. We're going to make the bags slightly smaller this year and put a full six ounces of tumbled rock in each one (and possibly a small magnifying glass). The smaller bag is to make them appear better filled.

I'm the point person on getting this done, and I need these things done. Which one can you help with?

Sew the bags to create a finished size pocket of 3" across by 4" up/down. (Directions Below)

Donate fabric for others to sew – preferably light weight cotton prints or solids.

Donate small polished rocks that you have tumbled (free grit is available) or that you've purchased to donate.

Thanks for any help you can provide. We'll be looking at a packing party later this spring!

## Directions

These are the directions that were used in the past. (Be sure to adjust the size of the fabric to 7" wide by 6" long as indicated below.)

1. Cut fabric 7" wide by 6" long
2. Cut 25" length of twine, heavy weight string, or something strong. Knot the ends.
3. Fold the 7" width along the top to create a hem about 1.5". You can use some of the 1.5" to make another little hem to finish the edge. Tuck the edge under (1/4") with an iron to help prevent fraying.
4. Lay the drawstring inside the fold
5. Sew the fold across the width along the tucked-under edge, creating a channel for the drawstring.
6. Fold the fabric right side together forming the bag/pocket.
7. Sew the bottom with a 1/2" margin and up the side until you get close to the top. Do not stitch the drawstring channel
8. Turn the bag right side out
9. If you want to glue or paint your bag, insert a piece of cardboard inside the bag

Hints: 1) Use 1/2 margins when sewing seams  
2) Use an iron to help hold the folds before sewing

Here is a link to a website that you can access that also contains directions and pictures.  
<http://www.kittybabylove.com/draw-string-bag-tutorial/>

Donna

## BOD Meetings

•Mary Hicks' Home

February 4, 2018 Antioch, CA

The next BOD Committee Meetings are March 4, June 3, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7. Mark your calendars please and call Mary at 925-779-0698 or [maryhicks@comcast.net](mailto:maryhicks@comcast.net) IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING. If we don't have enough members attending, we do not have a quorum and cannot vote on items. Present: (4) Paul Black (Dealer Chair), Dick Pankey (Trailer Transport, Exhibitors, Rock Collection), Mary Jernigan (Raffle), & Mary Hicks (Secretary-note taker). Mary Hanjes (Show Treasurer) notified she was under the weather. There was no communication from other active show members(?).

Newsletter items are due 2/19. Correspondence was distributed which included membership checks.

Paul Black Librarian has new items. Paul donated a book on "Making Metal Beads". He has ordered the book plates to identify who is remembered by each new library item. Federation Director Dick Pankey reports there will be a CFMS North Bay Field trip to Davis Creek, July 27-29 at the Lassen Creek Campground. He will get the collection permit. The next North Bay Field Trip meeting will in April. He and Betty had a good time in Quartzsite. Dick has not seen the budget that was distributed by Kelly. He needs a copy.

In January, we paid CFMS the amount of \$728 for 91 members listed as of December 2017. (Please remember that the numbers included members who still owed 2018 membership renewals)

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Mary Hicks Secretary 2018

•Centre Concord

February 12, 2018 Concord, CA

A brief BOD meeting was called to vote on the approved vendor list for the 2018 show. Kelly Plumb, Mary Hanjes, Mary Jernigan, Mary Hicks, Dick Pankey, Donna Albrecht, Bonnie Eichler, Chuck Olson, Paul Black, Cheryl Morgan. (10) Dealers were approved as the last years list. Mary Jernigan moved, Paul Black Seconded, all Ayes. More dealers can be used with board approval. Mary Hicks is going to send the list for 2017 out. She will send the information out to the BOD. Kelly Plumb will meet with the Centre staff to finalize the show contract. There may be a cost increase, the vendor charge can not be determined until after the contract is signed. Mary Hicks (Secretary) requested a copy of the general meeting and show contracts. Kelly reminded the BOD members to note the meeting dates and communicate if they are not attending. We now have 3 BOD monthly minutes pending acceptance. Donna Albrecht requested approval for the Club's Auction to be in September.

## Show Meeting

Mary Hicks' Home

February 4, 2018 Antioch, CA

The next Show Committee Meetings are March 4, June 3, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7. Mark your calendars please and call Mary at 925-779-0698 or [maryhicks@comcast.net](mailto:maryhicks@comcast.net) IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING. Members are asked to volunteer to take specific job assignments. As our members age we need to encourage members to help with the small specific assignments and have members who will help you. Do not use the excuse that you have done it before. Present: (4) Paul Black (Dealer Chair), Dick Pankey (Trailer Transport, Exhibitors, Rock Collection), Mary Jernigan (Raffle), & Mary Hicks (Secretary, Note-Taker). Mary Hanjes (Show Treasurer) notified she was under the weather. There was no communication from other active show members.

Updates for club member support of the club show November 2018 at Centre Concord: Set-up November 2, Show Saturday and Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no other new information. Members please make arrangements to work these days, including Friday. Yes, some of us have historically taken a day leave from work to help with the Friday activities. The Committee Lead is Kelly Plumb until a member volunteers to be the Show Chair. Layout is Terry Caskey. Dealer Chair is Paul Black. Raffle is Mary Jernigan. Publicity is Michael Hopkins. Saturday & Sunday Kitchen is Scott Pevahouse. Display and Exhibitors is Dick & Betty Pankey. Trailer Tow to Show and back to storage is Dick Pankey. Show Treasurer is Mary Hanjes. Demonstrators is Kelly Plumb. Admissions is Debbie Blevins. Grab Bags is Donna Albrecht. Silent Auction is Sheri and Donna. OPEN ORGANIZER POSITIONS: Show Chair. Friday Lunch. Friday Dinner. Critters for the Wheel. Relief Crew Organizer.

Judy Brown is donating the Rock Sculpture Lighthouse which has been displayed at the CCMGS for some years now. Mary Jernigan will make up \$5/ticket Special Raffle Tickets with the winner awarded at the show. Judy will see to the delivery of this popular item. The Special Raffle will be noted in the club's newsletter and open to other interested parties. Dick Pankey is interested in any historical information about the Diablo Dan Stained glass/rock sign which is displayed at the shows. Due to the delicate nature of this club icon, it is safely stored at the Pankey's. Betty has made repairs to this sign in the past. Doug True is interested in the 2018 show. Make calls before the show for setting up signs, being an active participation, make a script for the phone calls.

Mary Hicks Secretary 2018

## CCMGS General Meeting February 12, 2018

CCMGS General Meeting on February 12, 2018. Attendance 35.

Terry Caskey lead us with the Pledge of Allegiance. Our guest was John Kell who is a friend of Barry and Lee.

We had fantastic door prizes which were appreciated. An added surprise was the donation of a meteorite by Meteoritics, a Lunar rock.

We had plenty of snacks and beverages and would like to thank the members who brought the snacks and Vikki Hotopp for a nice presentation and for making coffee, hot water, and lemonade.

Naomi Morgan collected badge fines.

Joanne Caskey read the birthdays from the newsletter.

The club had a fantastic program given by a vendor at our show in 2017, Meteoritics. As noted in the program announcement Michael Santos demonstrated his knowledge on the subject of meteoroids, meteors, and meteorites. An array of samples were on the front table and several larger specimens were passed around the audience. Michael was good at condensing information to the high points to keep the audience interested in the presentation. Meteoritics will be at the Antioch Lapidary Show this coming weekend.

Antioch Lapidary Club has their show on this coming weekend. They will also have their annual Rockhound Tailgate later this year. Admission free, tables are \$5 each for selling. Lunch at 12:30 pm.

Chuck Olson (who is mending from breaking his arm in two places), announced future field trips. Information was on the back table. See information in the next newsletter.

Bonnie Eichler announced the deadline for the Casting Class Scholarship applications is before the next BOD meeting where she will present them for selection.

Dick Pankey announced a Petrified Wood (one-day) class. Cost is \$30, due at signup. The content of the class will teach about the plants and what to look for in petrified wood samples. April 21, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. After completing the class members will get a \$10 refund. See newsletter. 10 spots available, 7 were filled before the meeting ended.

Cheryl announced the competition items including a new category of artistic creations.

Dick Freiburger brought in a great mineral sample with a cross section of a ruby, the biggest I have ever seen. The ruby crystal was couched a matrix of zoisite. The specimen was beautifully trimmed for the best presentation possible. Thank you to Dennis for sharing this prize with us.

Mary Hicks brought in a small piece of intarsia artwork containing a light house perched above the ocean.

We missed those members not present to enjoy the evening with us and the program was stupendous!

Mary Hicks Secretary 2018

**YOU  
+ SHOW  
+ NOW  
= YOU  
BEING  
A  
CLUB  
MEMBER**



### Looking for our Lost CCM&GS Rockhounds! Sending out the Search Party

Rock Club Family- I have a special request\* Can you help me find our lost CCM&GS Rockhound members? Membership dues were overdue after January 2018. Sadly, members who did not renew will no longer receive our great newsletter packed full of Rockhound news, or hear about all the upcoming activities and classes. **Past due CCM&GS members will now need to pay \$15 dues to reinstate their membership per the Club by-laws.** Membership with CCM&GS is still such an incredible deal staying connected to the world of fieldtrips, interesting lectures, specimen collecting, lapidary arts, geologic finds, CFMS & AFMS news and so much more. .. Send out the search party. Give them a phone call. Meet them for coffee. Ask them to contact me or simply send in their dues check! Please help our lost membership reconnect with our amazing Rock Club Family. YOU are greatly appreciated!

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society CCM&GS  
P.O. Box 842  
Concord, CA 94522-0842

Mary Jernigan - CCM&GS Membership  
(925) 852-1133 [m10jernigan@yahoo.com](mailto:m10jernigan@yahoo.com)

# Meteorites Definitely ROCKed our February Program!!

We were definitely "Starstruck" by meteorites presented at our February program with Michael Santos and his wife Charlotte. So many interesting facts were shared... 98% of meteorites come from asteroids. Meteorites are usually 50- 80% metal and surprisingly quite heavy. A 'find' is meteorite material found after impact on Earth. A 'fall' is a meteorite that is witnessed falling to the Earth's surface. Carbonado meteorites are often called 'black diamonds' from outer space. The largest group of meteorites are stony material made of minerals found on Earth. Chondrites contain spherical structures called chondrules. Achondrites are stony meteorites without chondrules.'

Michael shared his amazing collection with us including Lunar and Martian meteorites. Did you check out the 'fusion crust' material on those meteorites? Thank you Michael & Charlotte for a **totally cosmic** presentation!

-Mary Jernigan  
Membership

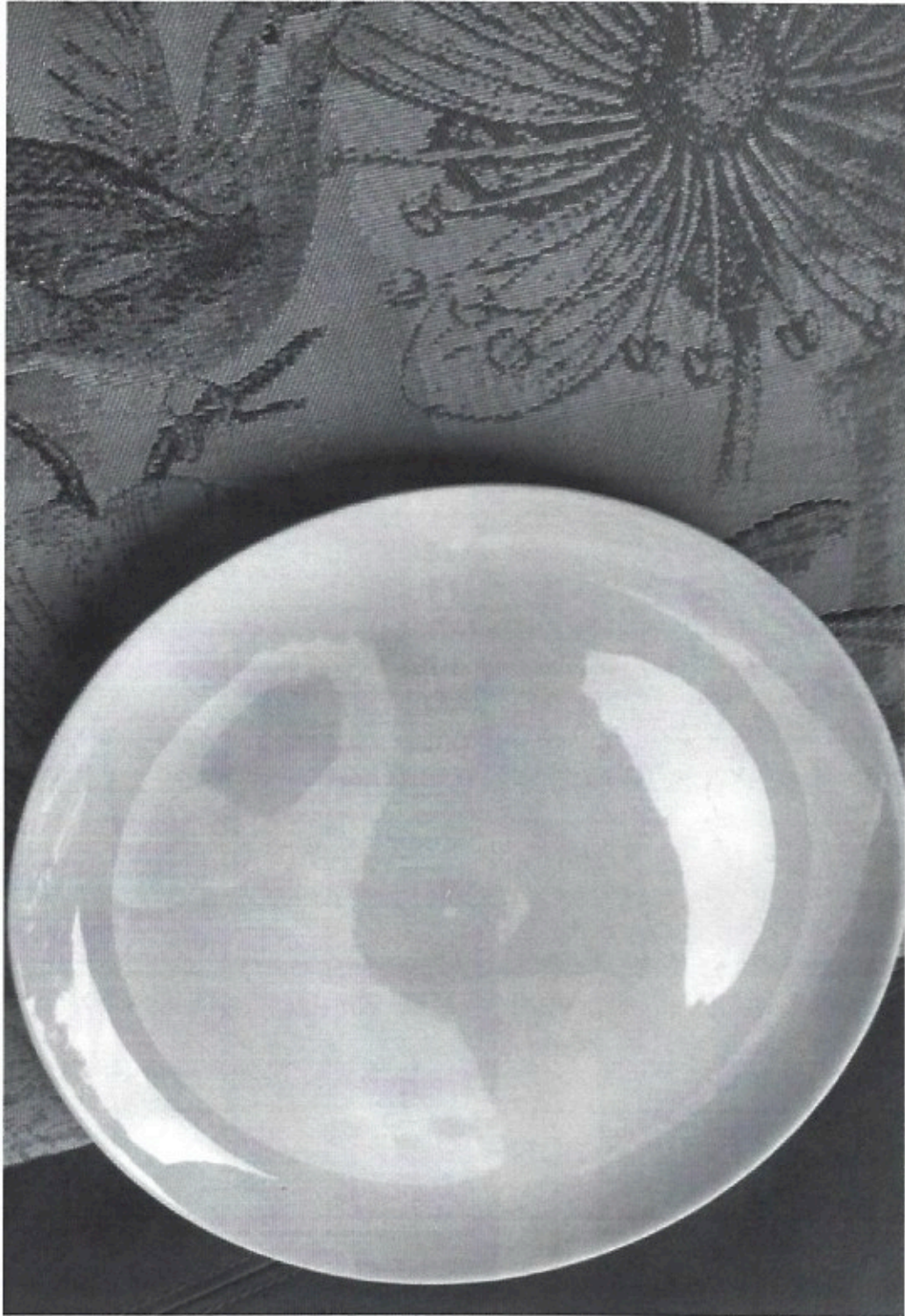
Photos by Taylor Thompson

- 1) Meteorites ROCK with Michael & Charlotte
- 2) Mary J. heavy lifting a meteorite
- 3) Lunar space rock
- 4) Martian meteorite

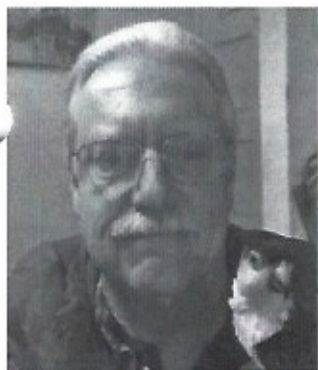


# Lost And Found

If this appears to be yours, please contact Joanne Caskey. It was found on the dessert table at the Christmas and Holiday Party last December







## Rockhounding With Sally!

Hi Folks,  
We're off making Rock-  
hound History or  
something....like that!!!  
But for you all, we've got

these upcoming Field Trips;

**March 3, 2018**

Field Trip Chairman's Association's  
Quarterly Seminar.  
Fair Oaks, Ca.

This is a CO-OP gathering for all, to share field trip  
information, lunch and a spectacular silent auction.  
Watch this space, or contact me for more information.

**March 18, 2018**

**Candy Mountains**

Barstow, Ca.  
Mining Supplies and Rock Shop  
9565 C Ave. Suite K  
Hesperia, Ca. 9234

Explore the Southern Cady Mountains ending the day  
in Ludlow for jaspers and agates.

Contact Cyndy Mandell at [cyndymandell@me.com](mailto:cyndymandell@me.com),  
(760) 244-9642.

View their website at

<http://www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com/index.php/public-guided-field-trips/>

**April 13 - 15, 2018**

Fallon, Nv. Area

Eldorado County Mineral & Gem Society

For Wonderstone, P. Wood, Amygdaloid Nodules, Jasper, Agate and a variety of Crystals.

Contact Wayne or Shirly Kuykendall, (916) 717-1902,  
[kuykendall@pacbell.com](mailto:kuykendall@pacbell.com).

**April 14, 2018**

NBFT Biannual Meeting.  
Woodland, Ca.

Another gathering for all, to share field trip information,  
lunch and another spectacular silent auction.

Watch this space, or contact me for more information.

**June 21, 2018**

Roaring Camp Mining Co.  
Pine Grove, CA

This is a day trip. Panning gold at the river or under the  
shade from a pile of gold bearing dirt. And rockhound-  
ing on the river banks.

Contact Wayne or Shirly Kuykendall, (916) 717-1902,  
[kuykendall@pacbell.com](mailto:kuykendall@pacbell.com).

And clear your calendars, ( tentatively), for;

**July 27 - 30, 2018**

CFMS / CCM&GS

Davis Creek, Ca.

For all hues of Obsidian. This area is rich, with all kinds of  
side trip possibilities. Watch this space for more details.

Let me know if you'd like more information or if you know  
of anything I'm missing.

As long as I'm within range of a cellular signal, I'm here,  
or there, to share any information I have.

[Olson86@Yahoo.com](mailto:Olson86@Yahoo.com)

925-890-7116

# **LEAVE NO TRACE !**

## All American Club Award (Brag Book)

I am excited to report that I have accepted the challenge of assembling 'The All American Brag Book' for the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society. To explain, I'd like to provide you with some of the information given to me from Dick Pankey immediately following:

### *Federation Director's Report*

*By Dick Pankey, Federation Director*

*The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has many programs that recognize the contributions and achievements of the societies and their members. One very important program is the All American Club Award. The All American Club Award was established to encourage and help the societies document their activities. The All American Club Award is meant to:*

- *Encourage local club members to share their expertise and enthusiasm for the hobby within their respective regions.*
- *Provide a model for organizing an annual historical account for the posterity of each club.*
- *Offer an opportunity for national recognition of exceptional clubs.*

*This is not a competition of one club against others. This is an Evaluation of Quality based on a standard of excellence. Now is the time to begin preparations to enter this year's All American Club Award. The award program is based upon our societies 2018 activities. It is easy to participate in this program; all that is required is to prepare a scrapbook (a Brag Book if you will) of what we do in a given year following some rules and a guideline.*

Thank you Dick.

In addition to this fun hobby of scrap booking, it will also be involving our club and supporting the California Federation of Mineralogical Society and their contest. The crucial part of this is that I cannot do it alone and am hoping that I could enlist help from the members for content. (In my humble opinion, your part will also be fun.) If you would write articles and submit photographs to me this will make the brag book colorful and interesting. I will be so grateful. It's my understanding that it has been several years since we last participated and I'm excited to enter this year's activities attended by YOU, the CCM&GS membership. Bring your camera wherever you go. It's easy because you probably have a camera on your telephone.

Participation pieces include articles and photos of rock shop visits, tumbling rocks (before and after photos), club sponsored meetings, other rock related meetings, rock/mineral events, bead shows, our club show for 2018, any other club shows, talks, demonstrations, classes you taught and/or attended, programs in which you participated, letters you wrote to legislators (include copies), government meetings you attended, newsletter articles you wrote for the Diablo Diggins or other club papers, field trips you attended and any other activities promoting our hobby.

You can find more information at: [http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms10/contest\\_forms.htm](http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms10/contest_forms.htm)

Even though it is not a competition of one club against another, let's try to win anyway. No article or photo is too small or insignificant. If you don't know if your submission is an eligible item, send it anyway and I'll find out. Please email to me at [ohb@astound.net](mailto:ohb@astound.net). If you need to mail them, my address is 1074 Kipling Ct., Concord, CA 94518.

Debbie Blevins  
Member

## Membership Dues Are Overdue

Membership dues to CCM&GS are due for the 2018 year.

Don't miss out on the Diggins' Newsletter, upcoming fieldtrips, classes or other interesting events!

Annual membership dues are \$10 (now \$15), payable to CCM&GS.

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society  
P.O. Box 842,  
Concord, CA 94522-0842

Stay Connected -  
Mary Jernigan - CCM&GS Membership

[m10jernigan@yahoo.com](mailto:m10jernigan@yahoo.com)  
(925) 852-1133



ST.  
PATRICK'S  
DAY

### March Meeting Refreshments



Lyle Roessler  
Edie Sandberg  
Bill Schaub  
Diana Skibiell  
Victoria Stevenson  
Carly Taraldson  
Joe Yarbrough  
Donna Albrecht  
Barrie Bieler  
Paul Black  
Debbie & Larry Blevins  
Mary & Mark Bufton  
Joanne & Terry Caskey

### Happy Birthday



to the following members  
who have birthdays this month:

Sharon Neuhauser  
Donna Heath  
Matt Mathews  
Edie Sandberg  
Bonnie Eichler

Mary Jernigan, Membership



### Happy Anniversary



Joanne & Terry Caskey

# North Bay Field Trips

Please mark your calendars and attend the next NBFT Meeting

**Date :** Saturday, April 14, 2018

**Hosted:** by the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS) In Redwood City

**Location and directions:** The meeting will be held at the Woodside Road Methodist Church  
2000 Woodside Road (at Alameda) in Redwood City

Easy access from both 280 and 101. Take the Woodside exit. Parking on site.

**Cost:** Cost of the seminar is \$1.00 for registration

Please bring an auction item donation from your club

<b>Schedule:</b>	8:00 – 9:00	Registration/Social with donuts and coffee
	9:00 – 10:30	Business Meeting
	10:30 - 12:15	Field trip Seminar
	12:15 – 1:00	Lunch (provided). Please bring a dessert to share
	1:00 – 3:30	Conclude Seminar

Dues are due for 2018. They are only \$5.00; cash required.

This meeting and seminar is not only for your society's Field Trip Leader but for all members that are interested in and may want to join in some of the Field Trips. This seminar is for field trip leaders, and all rockhounds that enjoy collecting; all members and guests are welcome. Your attendance is needed.

This is a centrally located meeting site that is convenient for all NBFT societies. Please bring material for the silent auction: rocks and specimens from past field trips, rock related "white elephants" (old books, findings, tools, etc.), lapidary/jewelry items, and the like. This meeting is not just for field trip chairmen and leaders, so be sure to invite **all** of your club members who are interested in field trips, collecting and getting great buys on rocks and specimens.

We will start the day with the Fall Meeting business session and start the seminar late morning. In addition to reports of summer field trips we will have election of officers. We will also have announcements of fall and winter field trips. And it is not too early to start thinking about 2018 trips. Each NBFT club is expected to host a shared field trip or related activity each year. Start your planning now so that your club will have a field trip or event to share.

Doors open at 8:00 the meeting will start at 9:00. Come early with your donations for the Silent Auction and socialize with friends and Rockhounds with coffee and doughnuts.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Upcoming Gem Faires in March**



**March 9, 10, 11**  
**Pleasanton, CA**

**Venue**

Alameda County Fairgrounds  
4501 Pleasanton Ave.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**SHOW HOURS**

Friday 12pm-6pm  
Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sunday 10am-5pm

**Address:** PO Box 55337 Portland OR 97238

**Phone:** (503) 252-8300

**Email:** info@gemfaire.com



**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**

P O Box 842, Concord, Ca 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30pm Centre Concord, 4298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA  
(Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about .2 miles northwest on Clayton Rd. 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 2018**

Please do not publish this list, Editor

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<b>Ecology and Public Lands</b> <b>Open</b>	<b>Historian</b> <b>Debbie Blevins</b> (925)680-6562 <a href="mailto:ohb@astound.net">ohb@astound.net</a>	<b>Show</b> <b>Open</b>

March 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
						Field Trip Chairman's Association Quarterly Seminar, Fair Oaks, CA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BOD & Show Meetings						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	General Meeting					St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
F/T Candy Mountains, Barstow, CA	Diablo Diggins Articles Due					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**First Class**  
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 Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society  
 PO Box 842, Concord, CA 94522-0842

**Diablo Diggins**  
 Newsletter of the Contra Costa  
 Mineral and Gem Society  
 Editor: Debbie Blevins  
 Send reports/articles/pictures to  
[ohb@astound.net](mailto:ohb@astound.net)  
 The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem  
 Society was formed in 1950 to encourage  
 the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts and  
 field collections.  
 Members meet the second Monday of  
 each month (third Monday in June) at  
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 Concord, CA 94521 (Clayton Fair  
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