



Vol. 65, No. 2

# Diablo Diggins

## Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

**"We Dig Rocks"**

This newsletter is available by e mail - contact the editor



Concord, CA

February 2017



### February 2017 President's Message



It is still cold and rainy but the good news is all that water should knock some great rocks loose from their earthy hiding places. Until the field trips start we can enjoy the upcoming shows. February is bringing the Antioch show on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a great show with all the trimmings, raffle, grab bags, spin-the-wheel, sand treasures, silent auction, great food and of course demonstrators and displays. Many of us are members of what we regard as a sister club so let's come out, enjoy some gem and mineral fun and support a great hobby. The following weekend is the Vallejo show.

I don't know how many of you have noticed, but over the years that I have been a member, club membership has declined. It is not that the hobby is any less fascinating, but let's face it, our old standby members are getting older. Over the years some of us have died and some have moved away. I am sure many of us have younger (or just other) friends, neighbors, students (teachers step up) coworkers or acquaintances who might enjoy the hobby. Bring/invite them to a meeting. We have a great talk and film on pegmatites at the Ocean View Mine in Pala CA At the next meeting. They might even win a door prize. If anyone has an idea about new ways to reach out to our communities to get more people interested please see me or any Board member. I am even thinking of appointing a community outreach chairperson so feel free to volunteer.

Kelly Plumb, President

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday February 13, 7:30 PM**  
**Centre Concord**



**FEBRUARY PROGRAM**  
**OCEANVIEW MINE**

February Program.....	2
Meeting Minutes.....	3,4
Dues.....	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	5
Education.....	6
Competition.....	7
Rockhounding with Sally.....	8,9
Holiday Party Report.....	10
Officers and Committees.....	11
Club Calendar.....	12

**CCM&GS Program for February 13, 2017**

## Oceanview Mine

### Famous Minerals & Gems - Right Here in California

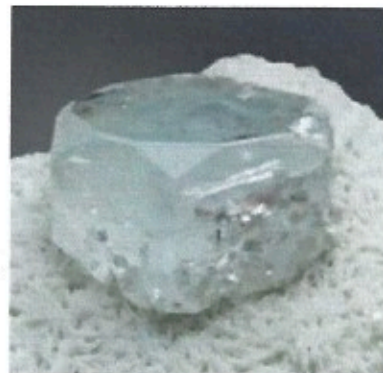
The Pala Mining District of San Diego County continues to set a standard for world-class minerals & gems of a pegmatite origin. The Oceanview Mine on Chief Mountains is second to none. Presently, you can even "dig your own" gems in their public hosted areas.



We will first review what a pegmatite deposit is, and then watch a video. Mark Mauthner is featured in a video recently recorded at the American Gem Trade Association Show in Tucson. Mark spent a number of years working at the Oceanview Mine as a miner, photographer, and sales manager, and his talk describes the history, geology, and mineral discoveries at the mine.



Here is a partial list for minerals & gems you should bring: Beryl (Morganite, Aquamarine, Goshenite), Mica (Lepidolite, Muscovite), Tourmaline (Elbaite, Schorl), Spodumene (Kunzite), Microcline, Quartz.



Pala District specimens. Clockwise from top: Kunzite, Elbaite, Aquamarine, Morganite

Dennis Freiburger, Program Chairman

### **Board Meeting**

**Monday February 6 @7:00 PM**

**Larry and Debbie Blevins' House**

**New Articles for March *Diablo Diggins***

**Due Date, February 20, 2017**

## January 3, 2017 BOD Meeting

Mt. Mikes Pizza, Clayton Rd., Concord Meeting 7 pm to 8:45 pm. Present: Kelly Plumb, Mary Hicks, Mary Hanjes, Chuck Olson, Paul Black, Terry Caskey, Dick Pankey, Bonnie Eichler, Debbie Blevins, Cheryl Morgan, Naomi Morgan. Absent: Mary Jernigan, Harry Nichandros, Therese Clark, David Kleesattel. The minutes from the last BOD meeting were approved, Bonnie Eichler proposed, Cheryl Morgan seconded, all ayes. Bills were paid. Communications, none from the Website and the Secretary reported the mail box had dues from B. Schaub, Judy Brown, CFMS news, and postcards for the February 25 & 26 Vallejo Show. Unfinished business: Mary Hanjes provided information for the November 2016 club show. Bonnie Eichler proposed member Brenda Flowers be awarded the scholarship for the lost wax casting class at the Mt. Diablo Adult Education program. Paul seconded and all ayes. New business is to get in the 2017 budget items to Mary Hanjes. An idea (not a budget item) was mentioned that some expenses (approved) be given to a member in advance so that they do not have to use their personal funds. Brief discussion. No action. Mary Hanjes is moving on getting the audit in process, Debbie Blevins volunteered. Chuck said to look at the newsletter for field trip news. Brief discussion on open positions. Not all positions have been filled. Cheryl Morgan needs coverage for the general meeting, Paul volunteered. She talked about expanding the categories for competition. Meeting at the B of A to sign new check signature card is planned. Paul said the Library is good and he will bring books about Jade to the general meeting. Terry mentioned that the articles for the newsletter are constantly LATE. He wants to be replaced as Editor. Articles are due 1/16/17. Dick Pankey asked who wants the AFMS and CFMS newsletters. He spoke about an internet scam going after lapidary clubs. Dick also wants to support a Southern California Paleo Society responding to BLM and other Fed organizations about regulations and laws. Motion by Dick and Cheryl, none opposed. BOD members asked if we were going to get the Show Committee going. We have had only one meeting since the show and we went on record wanting meetings. Kelly says she is leading as President by listening to the BOD. Discussion followed with the BOD developing the

beginning of the structure for the next show. More information to come. Club members are invited to get involved, in fact success for future shows depend on members being included and being involved in the show planning. The next show discussion will be after the next BOD meeting in February so plenty of notice to club members about the meeting can be given so they can participate. This meeting will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Larry and Debbie Blevins' home in Concord, 8 to 8:30 pm. Meeting adjourned.

## January 9, 2017 General Meeting held at Centre Concord.

The Meeting was called to order by President Kelly Plumb, the Pledge of Allegiance was said and badge fines were collected. The safety moment was to remind everyone to drive with caution in the wet weather. Use headlamps when using wipers and do not drive through flooded areas. We need a Hospitality Chair. Sharon Neuhauser volunteered to check in guests and to award the door prizes. There were four guests at the meeting. Barbara Matz, Brook Edwards, Mark Ellsberry, Dakota Walmsky. Bonnie Eichler announced that Brenda Flowers was awarded the scholarship for the lost wax class at Mt. Diablo Adult Education. The Antioch Lapidary Club is having a show at the Contra Costa County

Fairgrounds February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Kelly is looking for a person to demonstrate beading at that show. Paul Black covered the Display and Competition table for Cheryl Morgan. As Librarian, Paul brought books about Jade to the meeting. Chuck Olson spoke about Field Trip lists, check on the Newsletter for new items. The third Show Meeting is planned after the BOD meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Larry and Debbie Blevins' home 8:30 to 9:00 pm and is open to members. The BOD members are interested in developing new ideas for the show. Please come and help out, contact Mary Hicks at 925-779-0698 for more information. The program was given by Program Chair Dennis Freiburger about Jade. Before he started Dennis reminded everyone that we can enter the room after 6:30 pm and must be out by 10:00 pm. Also, do not pick up items brought by speakers or on display unless the owner of the item gives you permission to do so. Dennis said that he decided to speak about Jade because it is so popular.

(Meeting Minutes continued)

Jade is a trade term. Nephrite and Jadeite can be found in several locations and has been prized for its beauty, rarity, and durability. Refreshments were organized By Vicki Hottop.

Mary Hicks  
Secretary

### SHOW MEETING

There will be a short show meeting after the Board Meeting on February 6 at the Blevins home. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend.

### Membership Dues Are Due

Membership dues to CCM&GS are due for the 2017 year. Don't miss out on the Diggins Newsletter, upcoming fieldtrips, classes or other interesting events!  
Annual membership dues are \$10, 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

### Lapidary Lovers – a blog just for you!

Lapidary lovers now have a blog just for us! [www.LapidaryWhisperer.com](http://www.LapidaryWhisperer.com) has just come online and I'd love it if you would check it out. It's an online community for lapidary lovers where I'll post a new blog entry every other Wednesday.

Yes, rocks and slabs tell me what they want to be, and then I commit lapidary on them to bring out their stories.

I'd love to hear what you think about the blog. Please write me directly at [Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com](mailto:Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com) or if the comment box isn't showing at the bottom of the blog entry, click on "No Comment" at the bottom and the comments block will appear.

Let's enjoy this wonderful art and craft together!

Your Lapidary Whisperer, Donna Albrecht.

**Refreshments**

Refreshments and Snacks for the General Meeting.  
Thank You to the Club Members that bring snacks to our General Meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, contact another member and trade snack responsibility. You can also call the Refreshment, Hospitality, or Membership Chairpersons and let us know if you are not attending this month. Vickie Hotopp is in charge of our refreshments and she really appreciates sharing your delicious snacks at the meetings.

Thank you!

Mary Jernigan- Membership

**February Refreshment List**

David Bragen  
Judy Brown  
Mark & Mary Bufton  
Joanne & Terry Caskey  
Gary Casillas  
Brooke Casillas  
Ken Caudel  
Greg DeFabio  
Marisa DeSantis  
Dick Dennis  
Bonnie Eichler  
Cheri Elliott

**February Birthdays**

If you are a current member and do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please drop me a note so I can update my record.

Thanks, Mary Jernigan

**Happy Birthday!!**

Robert Rijor, Jr.	2/3
Taylor Thompson	2/10
Cheri Elliott	2/19
Donna Albrecht	2/26

**February Anniversaries**

None

**Education Corner**

We are currently looking for classes to fill our calendar for 2017. Paul Black has let the Board know that he has slate available that he will donate to the club for carving classes if someone knows of a slate carving teacher who will teach a class for the club. Dick Pankey will look into his church as a possible location to hold a hands on petrified wood educational class. The class cost estimate is approximately \$50 per person with a max of 10 students (the club will reimburse \$10 per member in good standing for the class.)

Joanne Caskey said she is willing to teach another mosaic class once the weather warms up again. Please contact me if you have other classes in mind, especially if you have a class you are willing to teach. A decision was made at the December Board meeting to continue the Reimbursement Scholarships for the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Lost Wax Casting class. There are 3 classes per year, so there will be 3 reimbursement scholarships awarded in 2017. As previously determined, a member may only win this scholarship once in a lifetime.

The Board also decided to award Reimbursement scholarships for half of the tuition for the ZZYX or Camp Paradise Earth Studies camp in 2017.

The application forms for both scholarship programs were sent out via email before the December General meeting. We are proud to be able to offer these ways to give back to our membership and encourage everyone to apply.

**Bonnie Eichler, Education Chairperson**

**Mother Lode Mineral Society's**

**ROCK & GEM SHOW**

**MARCH 11-12, 2017**

**Saturday & Sunday 10 am-5 pm  
Admission \$6.00 - 12 & under free**

- *Huge Fluorescent Display!!*
- *Dinosaur & Fossil Exhibits*
- *Kids Activities*
- *Demonstrations*
- *Great Food*
- *Gem & Mineral Dealers*
- *Educational Exhibits*
- *Jewelry, Beads & Tools*
- *Speakers for Children*



**Stanislaus Fairgrounds**

900 North Broadway Turlock CA

**[www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)**

Contact: Bud & Terry McMillin 209-524-3494



## 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** - Four entries

- A – Barrie Bieler – Sodalite
- B – Paul Black – Nephrite Jade
- C – Donna Albrecht – Tube Agate
- D – Lyle Roessler – Catseye Nephrite Jade (winner)**

**Shape of the Month – Irregular** - Four entries

- A – Lyle Roessler – Texas Plume Agate (winner)**
- B – Barrie Bieler – Opal
- D – Donna Albrecht – Blue Tigereye

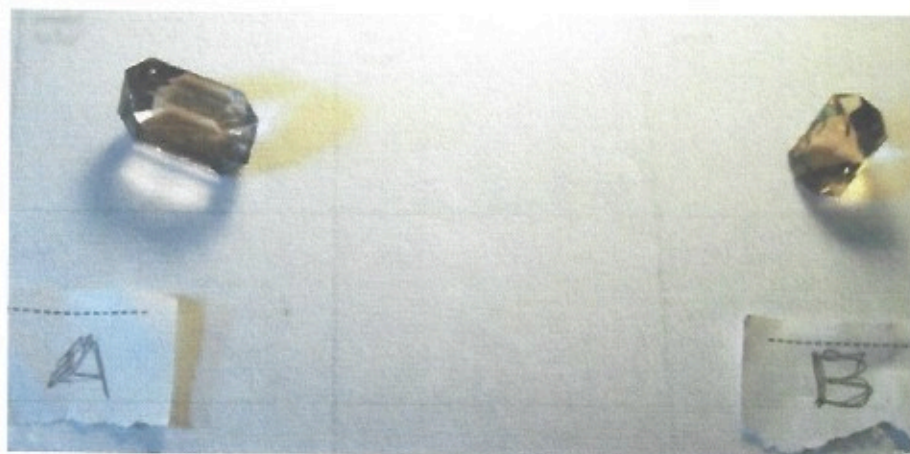
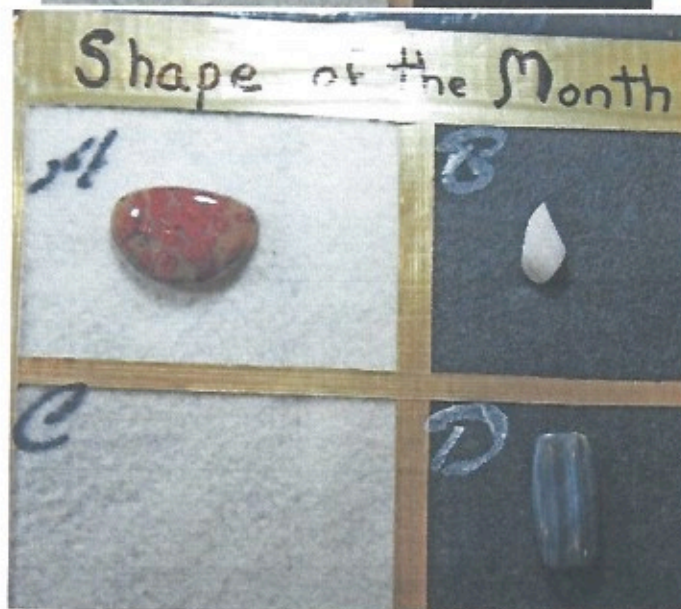
**Faceted Gems** – Two entries

- A – Barrie Bieler - Quartz
- B – Terry Caskey – Citrine (winner)**

It seemed as though everyone in the club had some jade (if that's even a real mineral) to display, but Barrie was determined to bring the most. Thank you all for enhancing the program with such fine examples of jade...if that's even a real thing.

## 2017 Shape of the Month Cabs

- January – Irregular
- February - Heart
- March - Round
- April - Oval
- May - Pear (Teardrop)
- June – Rectangles & Squares
- July - Freeform
- August - Triangle
- September - Auction Night (no displays)
- October – Marquis (Cat's eye)
- November - Oval
- December - No competition (Holiday party)



## Rockhounding With Sally!



Hi Folks,

Well, with transmission problems, and not enough of a break in the rain for repairs, the Jeep, Sally and I have been sidelined for January. And we've missed Quartzite.

On top of that, Sally is cranky from cabin fever, (And we can all attest to how unpleasant that can be!)

I spoke on the phone last week, with Jack Caufield of the Lodi Club, who was at the Old Timer's camp. He gave a rundown of all Friends we were missing. And the upcoming R.V. Show, ( for those who've not made it to Quartzite yet. The R.V. show is a BIG DEAL! ).

It sounds like a smaller group will be traveling on to Wiley's Well.

I'm hoping to hear more from Dick and Betty Pankey, once they're home.

It looks like the weather's going to break, at least through the rest of January.

So once the repairs are finished, we're looking for a Field Trip in February.

And maybe that will make the little Bird happy!

Meanwhile, here's an update on upcoming Field Trips:

### February Sunday 26th at 3pm

Princess Pat Mine UV Hunt in Adelanto  
Adelanto – West of Hesperia  
Mining Supplies and Rock Shop  
9565 C Ave. Suite K  
Hesperia, Ca. 92345

As the winter is upon us, come with us to Adelanto and scope out this former tungsten mine while we wait for dusk and then, break out your UV lamps

and search for all sorts of fantastic UV reactive minerals! Bright blue/white tungsten ore is what we are looking for, and pinks and orange calcite add to the UV mix!

This is a rock shop that sponsors monthly field trips, lead by Justen Zzyzy.

I haven't been on a field trip with these Folks. But they've been doing this for sometime. And have an impressive schedule, for the next few months. They charge a fee of \$40.00 per six field trips.

For further information, contact Cyndy Mandell at [cyndymandell@mc.com](mailto:cyndymandell@mc.com), (760) 244-9642.

Check out their website at, [Public Guided Field Trips – Mining Supplies and Rock Shop](#).

### March 4, 2017

Fair Oaks, Ca.  
CO-OP

CO-OP's Annual Field Trip Seminar. Hosted by the Sacramento Mineral Society.

For more information, contact Misty Watson, [mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com](mailto:mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com), (209) 480-3176.

### April 8, 2017

Vallejo, Ca.  
North Bay Field Trips

The Vallejo G&MS is hosting North Bay Field Trips Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 8 at their Club House and Shop. For more information, contact Dick Pankey, [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com), (925) 726-5914, or Chuck Olson, [olson86@yahoo.com](mailto:olson86@yahoo.com), (925) 890-7116.

### April 8, 2017

Mariposa, Ca.  
Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics

This is the Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics, yearly Central Ca. Rockhounding Odyssey.

I haven't been on any of their field trips, but I've heard good things about them.

As I recall, this is announced as a five day field trip. And the first two days originate at the Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society's show. So you might want to check the schedule to see if there are field trips



leaving from the show. Or if two of the five days,  
are visiting their show.

For more information, contact Kris Rowe, (559)  
250-5057.

### **April 15, 2017 ( Approximately ).**

Boron, Ca.  
Lew Helfrich

Twice a year, Lew Helfrich leads a, Discovering the  
Mojave Desert, field trip. Collecting Jasper,  
Petrified Wood, Palm Root, Green Opal, Travertine,  
Chalcedony, Dendritic Opal and Agate.

The next trip will be sometime around the Easter  
Holiday.

The size of the group, will be limited. So get your  
reservations in early.

For more information, contact Lew Helfrich at,  
[lewsrocks@att.net](mailto:lewsrocks@att.net), (760) 762-5000.

I spoke with Barb Matz, of the San Francisco Club,  
at our January, General Meeting.

And she confirmed that we could look forward to  
another S.F. Club, sponsored Field Trip, open to all  
North Bay Field Trips Member Clubs, ( that's us! ),  
this coming season.

The Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society is  
rumored to be planning a future trip to Black Butte  
Lake and Stony Creek, in the near future.

I'll let you know if they'll be sharing this trip with  
N.B.F.T Member Clubs, as more information  
becomes available.

And as long as I'm within range of a Cel. signal, I'm  
here, or there, to pass on any further information I  
have, at [olson86@yahoo.com](mailto:olson86@yahoo.com), (925) 890-7116.

Chuck Olson, Field Trip Chairman

## **CCM&GS Seniors ROCK!!**

Snappy Cats, Mary Bufton & Sharon Neuhauser  
shared their talents playing kazoos  
and singing at the Walnut Creek Senior Center.

Fan Club- Taylor Thompson & Mary Jernigan.



## Holiday Party and Installation of Officers

We announced a party with food and more than 50 CCM&GS members showed up for our Holiday Party. The potluck theme this year was "We Are On a Field Trip". When I arrived at 6:00 there was just a roomful of tables and chairs that were soon transformed to colorful, festive dinner tables thanks to Debbie Blevins, Joanne Caskey, Pat Howard and Connie Klein. In addition to the red and green table cloths they made center pieces of green boughs and decorative Christmas balls. Betty Pankey completed the center piece with a stained glass candle, holly leaves or bells for each table. The stained glass decorations and the Christmas balls were given out as table prizes at the end of the evening. A special thank you to Dave Kleesattle for bringing in the coffee and to Mary and Mark Bufton for the soft drinks. Thanks also to the Buftons for coordinating our canned food collection for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

By 6:30 we were ready to set out our potluck dinner. Our cooks did a great job of filling the 3 serving tables with a wonderful and abundant variety of main dishes, pasta dishes, side dishes, breads or rolls and butter, and DESSERTS!! I love desserts. Dave called the evening to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a few brief announcements and we were ready to start our potluck. I gave a short prayer of thanks for our dinner then started the people through the serving line with a twist. As we often do at our field trip potluck we honor our elders by sending people through the line based on age. First the 80's and older, then the 70 year olds, and so forth. Poor Taylor, but someone snuck her in a little early.

When dinner concluded "The Contra Costa Players" assembled for their rendition of The Night Before Christmas. They hadn't performed for a couple of years but each one performed their part with enthusiasm and gusto. There was talk about taking the performance on the road but we decided to just stay at the party anyway.

The Installation of Officers was conducted by YOTMC Past President and dealer at our show, Joyce Emerson. She and her husband Bob drove down from Auburn for this important event. As part of her charge to each officer she presented each one with a bag of nuts to help them deal with a bunch of "squirrely rockhounds". She concluded the installation with a charge to the membership to support and help when called upon. (Who is interested and ready to step up and help with Hospitality, Publicity, Ecology or some other committee.) A BIG & Special thank you to Joyce. Congratulations and good luck to Kelly and the 2017 officers.

We ended our evening with our annual gift exchange; if you "bring one you will get one." Thanks to Kelly Plumb for organizing and coordinating our gift exchange. It was great fun with many interesting and special gifts. Because of a lot of interested and dedicated members we had a great Holiday Party and Installation of Officers without the guidance, leadership and coordination of a Hospitality Committee. But I wonder what we could do with a Hospitality Committee?

Adhering to the principals of "Leave No Trace" when on a field trip we cleared the tables, put all of our trash into the trash cans leaving the room as it was when we started the evening. It was a great Field Trip Potluck.

Dick Pankey

**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY [www.ccmgs.org](http://www.ccmgs.org)**

P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 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 2017**

Please do not publish this list, Editor

**President****Kelly Plumb****510 693 9075**[Kellyplumb900@yahoo.com](mailto:Kellyplumb900@yahoo.com)**1st Vice President, Programs****Dennis Freiburger**[Dennisfrei@aol.com](mailto:Dennisfrei@aol.com)**(925) 680-8936****2nd Vice president, Field Trips****Chuck Olson****925-890-7115**[olson86@yahoo.com](mailto:olson86@yahoo.com)**Secretary****Mary Hicks****925 779 0698**[maryhicks@comcast.net](mailto:maryhicks@comcast.net)**Treasurer****Mary Hanjes****925 932 4345**[mrhanjes@gmail.com](mailto:mrhanjes@gmail.com)**Federation Director****Dick Pankey****925 439 7509**[Dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:Dickpankey@juno.com)**Ecology****Open****Publicity****Open****Property****Therese Clark****925 674 7055****Hospitality****Open****Display****Cheryl Morgan****Librarian****Paul Black****925-388-5803**[challengerdev@comcast.net](mailto:challengerdev@comcast.net)**Show****Harry Nichandros****925 674 7055**[Nichandros\[at\]juno\[dot\]com](mailto:Nichandros[at]juno[dot]com)**Sergeant at Arms****Open****Historian****Debbie Blevins****925-680-6562**[OHB@Astound.net](mailto:OHB@Astound.net)**Education****Bonnie Eichler****(925) 944-1331**[BonnieE1969@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BonnieE1969@sbcglobal.net)**Refreshments****Vickie Hotopp****925 566 8588****Membership****Mary Jernigan****(925) 852-1133**[M10jernigan@yahoo.com](mailto:M10jernigan@yahoo.com)**Bulletin Editor****Terry Caskey****925 689 2119**[tcaskey@comcast.net](mailto:tcaskey@comcast.net)**Past President****Dave Kleesattel**[daveklees@aol.com](mailto:daveklees@aol.com)**(925) 798-8240****Past Historian****Hazel Woolsey****925 837 3287**

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Board Meeting	7 	8	9	10	11
12	13 General Meeting	14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18 Antioch Gem Show
19 Antioch Gem Show	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23	24	25 Vallejo Gem Show
26 Vallejo Gem Show	27	28				

**First Class**

Member of American and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society  
P.O. Box 842, Concord, Ca 94522-0842

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

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).

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

Send reports to [tcaskey@comcast.net](mailto:tcaskey@comcast.net)

Editor- Terry Caskey

[www.ccmgs.org](http://www.ccmgs.org)

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Diablo Diggins