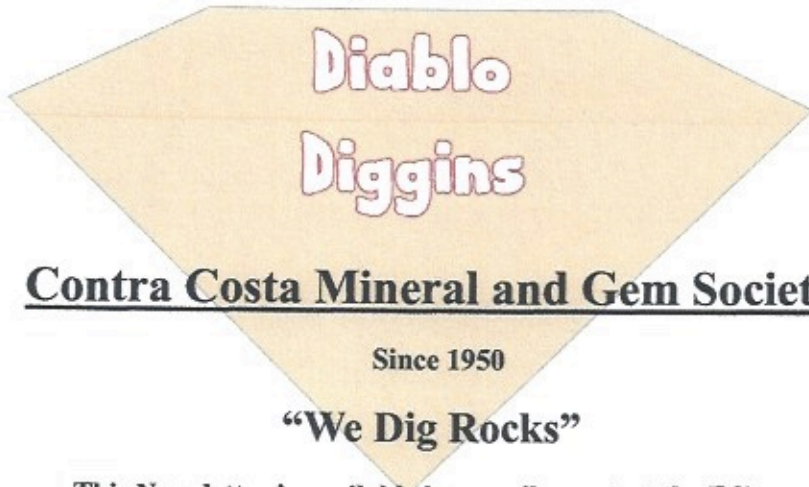




Vol 63, No. 9



Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor



Concord, CA

September 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September already, sounds too much like the summer is almost over. I travel back to Alaska this month and I've been told they had "terminal" snow already in the mountains around the Kenai Peninsula. I never heard of "terminal" snow, but to the locals that means it's the termination of summer. Actually most the locals prefer the winter... fewer bugs and fewer tourists.



Well we had a great Show in August. Thanks go to Harry for leading that effort and many thanks to everybody who donated their time and effort to make our Club's Show great. I haven't seen the numbers yet, but I think our concerns about having to change the Show dates were not necessary. I had a great time with Dennis Freiburger identifying rocks, minerals, and gems. Looks like the word got out that we are providing that service because many people brought material with them.

Although we're getting towards the end of the year, we still have a lot of good activities and programs planned. Please read the newsletter and come to the General Meeting on the second Monday of the month. See you all soon.

Dave K
President

** SHOW
Toadstool
Display **

**NEW MEETING PLACE
CONCORD SENIOR CENTER**

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
Monday, September 14, 7:30 PM
Concord Senior Citizen Center

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM
Knapping
Donna Kelly

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CCM&GS Program for September 14, 2015

Knapping 2 Million Years Old and Still Going Strong

Man, or his predecessors, has been knapping for an estimated 2 million years in his pursuit of stone items for hunting, processing, and ornamentation. Obsidian, flint, and chert are the knappers' historic materials of choice. Why these materials? The pressure-flaking process requires durable, high quality, conchoidal fracturing stone. (A modern explanation for an ancient technique.)

Donna Kelly has been knapping since the late 1990's when she became fascinated with the history of knapping and its products while on a trip to the American South-West.

Her first pieces were re-creations of Native American hunting "points" made from obsidian. As she has refined her skills in recent years, she has progressed with antique glass, flint, and chert.



Clockwise from top: Rainbow obsidian, primitive knapping tool, beginning of a scrapper, finished spear point

Dennis Freiburger, Program Chairman

Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 PM

New Articles for October *Diablo Diggins*
Due Date, September 21, 2015

donate let me know. Again this is a CONFIRMED class and a sign up sheet is available. October class: Rock I. D. taught by Dave Kleesattel, date to be determined.

Terry Caskey, Editor, needs all items for the newsletter to be sent to him by August 17. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Next BOD meeting is on 9/9 at 7:00 pm, at Dave's office at 2520 Stanwell Dr., Suite 105 (Trihydro Office).

Secretary, Mary Hicks.

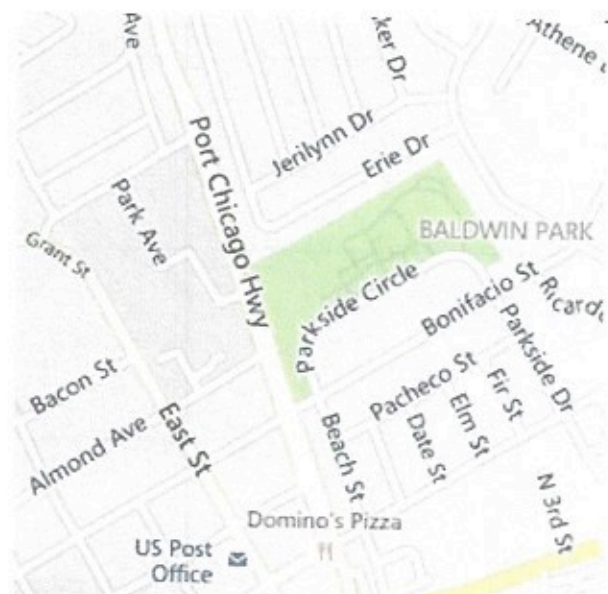
Change!!

Starting in **September**, we will be meeting at the Concord Senior Center.

2727 Parkside Circle

Concord, CA 94519

This is Off Bonifacio which is off Port Chicago Hwy



PROPOSED REVISED BY LAWS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

About every 2 to 3 years the CCM&GS forms a committee to review the Club's By Laws and to propose changes as appropriate. The process to change our By Laws is very well planned. First the Committee reviews the By Laws in great detail, and provides the Board of Directors with proposed changes. The Board of Directors then reviews the proposed changes, modifies them accordingly, and approves the changes for subsequent review and approval from the general membership. This is where you come in. The process now requires that we announce that the proposed revisions are available for your review. You have two months for this review. At the General Meeting in October (October 12), we will vote on the proposed changes.

Copies of the By Laws will be made available electronically via email, or if you prefer, we can provide a paper copy at your request. If you would like to review the proposed By Law changes (and I hope you do), Please let Mary Hicks or David Kleesattel know.

Thank you for your help.
David Kleesattel, 2015 CCM&GS President

Advance Reminder

The October meeting is

Auction Night

Donate rocks, slabs, equipment, jewelry and anything rock related to the auction.

Bring excitement and bid to take home the best treasures.

Spaces still open for upcoming classes!

Saturday September 12th & Saturday September 19th (2 day class) from 1pm – 4pm Betty Pankey will be teaching stained glass! PERFECT for the upcoming holidays!! The class will be held at the Hobby Lobby in Antioch on Lone Tree Way. 3 spaces are open for the Stained Glass class. Since class will begin before the next meeting contact Bonnie (Education Chairperson) or Betty to sign up. Bring your own drinks.

Saturday, October 17th from 10am – 2 pm Dave Kleesattle will be teaching a Rock Identification class at his office on Stanwell Drive in Concord. There are 7 spaces open for the Rock I.D. class. Drinks will be provided, bring your lunch.

Don't forget Dick Dennis' Soapstone carving class on Saturday, September 26th. All of the spaces are currently filled and a waiting list has been started. If you must cancel, please give at least a couple days notice so people on the wait list can plan to attend.

Coming soon! Gary Casillas will be teaching a Cabochon class, sign ups will be available soon. Connie Klein will be teaching a beading class with kits that can be purchased at Just Bead It in Concord. (Members who take the class will be reimbursed up to \$10 for their kits.)

Bonnie Eichler

**Lost Wax Casting Class begins Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30**

Have you ever wanted to cast your own jewelry? Mount Diablo Adult Education is offering a Basic Jewelry class and it is being taught by CCMGS member Gary Casillas. This class is not affiliated with our club, but there have been several club members in the class over the years. The class runs 3 months and is held on Wednesday nights from 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm in Pleasant Hill. Enroll today & get a jump start on your holiday gifts! The link to register online is <http://register.asapconnected.com/ClassDetail.aspx?pk=452805>

Rockhound Raffle 2015

Thanks YOU !!

Rockhound Raffle has wrapped up after the 2015 Annual CCM&GS Show. Thank You to the Club Members who generously donated amazing Artisan jewelry, prize belt buckles, agate bolo ties, mineral specimens, geodes, tumbled stones, fossils and much more to our Raffle case. Sharing the Rockhound hobby is always interesting and great fun!

Mary Jernigan- Membership

Hello Concord Gem Show People

Thanks to you all for putting on a Great Show! It was a tremendous success – date change and all.

We had outstanding new dealers, beautiful displays, a wealth of demonstrators, a wealth of youth activities, and a lot to see.

Because of a ton of advertising to previous Show visitors – all the way back to 2009 – we had great attendance, attendance rivaling our regular shows in November.,

I really appreciate everyone who set-up in the 103° Concord heat. It was HARD! And the 93° heat at tear-down was not much easier. I am grateful to all who manned the kids' activities, raffle, front door, and all the rest of the things that need to be done throughout the show.

We will be having a debriefing meeting soon. You are all welcome to come. Call or email me for the date. If you cannot make the meeting, I welcome your email comments.. Please send a note to me at [nichandros\[at\]juno.com](mailto:nichandros[at]juno.com). Tell us what went good, what went wrong, and what we can do to make the next show better.

By the way, if you have expenses, you will be reimbursed. Ask me for a reimbursement form.

Another by the way, we will not be having a show in November 2015. Our next show will be November 5-6, 2016 and thereafter back to our regular schedule of the first weekend in November

Thanks to you all,
Harry







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

B - Barrie Bieler – Picture Jasper (winner)

C – Joe Yarbrough – Strawberry Onyx

D – Donna Albrecht – 'Kneebone' Jasper

F – Mary Bufton – Snowflake Obsidian

Shape of the Month – Triangle - Three entries

A – Barrie Bieler – Lilac Jade

B – Donna Albrecht – Petrified Wood (winner)

D – Mary Bufton – Quartz Druzy

Faceted Gems – One entry

V – Barrie Bieler – Kunzite (winner)

This month it seemed that everyone had something to show off. Many of the minerals brought by Mary Hanjes were identified for her school. Joe Yarbrough shared a selection of chalcedony roses and rough. Kelly Plumb displayed blue barite and amazonite from Colorado, and "devil's toenails" from Utah. Dick Dennis had some alabaster carvings and two native American grinding stones. Obsidian was the theme for Dick & Betty Pankey, with needles, mahogany, bombs

and even pink sheen from their trip to Davis Creek. Lastly, Greg DeFabio showed off some rough opalites and Condor Agate. Thank you, all.

2015 Shape of the Month Cabs

January – Irregular (Freeform or any cut not mentioned in the rest of the year)

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June – Rectangles & Squares

July - Freeform

August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October – Auction Night (no displays)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Holiday party)



Faceted Gem



Pro Cabs

Federation Director's Report

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

The 2015 AFMS and Southeast Federation Show and Convention will be hosted by the Austin M&GS in Austin, TX on October 23rd to 25th. Even if you don't attend the show you can still participate in the activities. Each year the AFMS Endowment Fund conducts a raffle for the benefit of the fund. So far this year's over 20 prizes have been donated by individuals or societies. The prizes include pendants, carvings, mineral specimens, a bola and more. Most prizes are in the \$75 to \$100 range. Prizes will be added up until the day of the drawing. Raffle ticket cost \$5 each or (the best buy) 5 tickets for \$20. See me at our show or at the September meeting at the Concord Senior Center on Parkside Circle in Concord to buy your tickets.

The AFMS Endowment Fund was established as an emergency fund and to fund special projects of the AFMS. The money raised from ticket sales is invested in secure funds and only the interest earned from these investments can be used for several projects of the AFMS that benefit the societies. These funds cover the badges and expenses of the Junior Rockhound program. The funds are also use to provide copies to each federation the videos/slides/dvds of the prize winning entries from the Program Competition. These funds provide a stipend so that a representative from each federation can attend the Judges Training session held each year.



ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!

I want to personally thank all of you wonderful members (and friends) who contributed to making our show a rousing success! Many of you pitched in to fill needed spots at the Front desk, Silent Auction, Dealer/ Workers lunch and Dinner, Grab Bag and Spin the Wheel tables, Pre-teardown Pizza Feast, Security and Raffle sales. It is each and every one of you that makes the team strong. It could not be done without you.

Special thanks to all of the people, both members and non-members who spent many hours Saturday, Sunday or both, demonstrating their special skills for the edification, entertainment, and, yes, the enticement to join our ranks, that they provided to show goers.

Once again members excelled in the quality and variety of displays that they provided. I can't begin to thank John and Lori Peterson of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society enough. After several years of begging on my part, Lori agreed to bring her carved stone mushrooms to be displayed at our show. This is a display that Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society display chairpersons have been trying to get for years. Until this year Lori has been so booked up, that she was unable to accommodate us, but this year she and John made a special effort, and were finally able to bring their marvelous mushrooms to Contra Costa. Also new this year is Semion Mirkin, an ex-Faberge' jeweler who does detailed carving in wax, as well as hard and soft stones. He not only provided a lovely display of his work, he demonstrated his techniques in our demo room.

**Shows****September 19 - 20: CHICO, CA**

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair Street
Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5 daily, John Scott, (530) 343-3491
Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net, Website:
www.featherriverrocks.org [Show Page](#)

September 19 - 20: REDWOOD CITY, CA

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society, Community Activities Building
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Carol Corden, Email: cordencarol@yahoo.com
Website: www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org
[Show Page](#)

Field Trips

The **Capitola** field trip for fossils and whale bone will be on Sunday, September 13. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting. If you want to go but can't get to the meeting call, text or email me at (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com. We will meet at 10:00 am (yes I changed from 9:00am) which is just before high tide. That means we can follow the tide out until low tide at 4:13 pm if anyone feels like searching that long. Unfortunately, this year there were not a lot of conveniently timed low tides at midday, with nice weather so we will hope this one provides lots of good searching time.

Antioch Lapidary Club is hosting a Field Trip to Graveyard point, Idaho on 9/26/2015 through early October. Graveyard point Plume agate and the Regency Rose (pink and yellow plume) varieties found there are very popular. They will be camping at the Riverview campground on the Snake River. There are no motels in nearby Marsing, Idaho. You can break up the long drive by staying overnight in Winnemucca, Nevada. See Cheri Elliot for details or to sign up. CCM&GS members are welcome!

