



Concord, CA

September, 2018

**Diablo
Diggins**

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

Vol. 66, No. 9

“We Dig Rocks”

This newsletter is available by email - contact the editor

President’s Message



We are right in the middle of fieldtrip and show season. This is the perfect time to acquire rocks weather you are a buyer or a digger.

The live auction, the show and officer nominations for 2019 are fast approaching. Mary Hicks will be retiring at the end of the year so a new secretary is a critical necessity. Dave Kleesattel is spending a lot of time in Alaska so he needs a replacement for Property Chair. We have a tentative volunteer for show chair but she will need several task specific team leaders to help her succeed. Joanne Caskey is spearheading this years' Christmas party but we need a hospitality chair for next year even if I can talk her into continuing to be the team leader for those activities. We have lots of opportunity for our new members (and old members who may have been holding back) to step up and help take this club into the future. The club could also use a new President and an Education Chair. Turnover and reshuffling of jobs will help keep this club modern and successful. Just because the “same old people” will fill in these jobs if no one else steps up doesn’t mean that is good for the club. A mix of experienced “old standbys” and new “young blood” is a healthy combination to provide the necessary experience, enthusiasm and transfer of knowledge that will keep the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem society moving into the future. Let’s not become one of those “old clique” clubs were the new folks don’t have a voice. Help make this club what YOU want it to be.

I will be personally calling each of you in the next months to see what you have to offer the club. Some of you may only be able to take a 2 hour shift during the show. I am hoping to also find those individuals willing to join the Board of Directors in one capacity or another so put on your thinking caps and be prepared to discuss what this club means to you and how I can get you just a little bit more involved!

Kelly Plumb, President

**Upcoming
Meetings**

BOD September 2, 2018
5:30 Debbie Blevins' Home

Show Meeting September 10, 2018
6:30 Centre Concord

General Meeting September 10, 2018
7:30 Centre Concord

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

ANNUAL CCM&GS AUCTION – GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE ROCKS!

Don't miss our September meeting. We'll be having our annual auction and you're a big part of it!

It's a great time to share the treasured rocks and equipment (in working order only, please) that you're ready to pass on as well as bid on the remarkable NTO (New to You) materials that others bring in. It's always a lively program and you won't want to miss it. Along with your donations, be sure to bring your cash or checkbook (only members can write checks) and be prepared to be amazed and sometimes befuddled by all the goodies available this one night only!

See you there!

Donna Albrecht, Program Chair

Have you seen the latest at www.LapidaryWhisperer.com ?

CCMGS BOD Meeting August 5, 2018

at the Blevin's residence.

Present: Kelly Plumb, Debbie Blevins, Mary Hicks, Mary Hanjes, Donna Albrecht, Dick Pankey, Paul Black, Dave Kleesattel. Meeting started at 5:35 pm and adjourned at 6:45 pm. The President will be absent for the September General meeting. Minutes from the last BOD meeting were moved for approval by Dick Pankey, seconded by Donna Albrecht, all ayes. The scholarship application by member Diana Skibiell was approved by the Board, proposed by Paul, seconded by Mary Ha, all ayes. Dick Pankey reports the CFMS Field Trip saw a lot of obsidian collected. North Bay Field Trip meeting on September 22, see the newsletter for all the details. See the newsletter for the August program. Donna and Mary Ha will coordinate for the September Auction. Paul Black reported he has the book plates to mark the books ordered to honor deceased members. The Idea of Membership Ambassadors was briefly discussed. Members could be identified to help new members and guest feel welcome at our General Meeting. Kelly did receive the updated roster and will work on nominations. The following officers volunteered to be considered on the 2019 slate: Dick Pankey for Federation Director, Mary Hanjes for Treasurer if no one else is interested, Donna Albrecht for Vice President of Programs. Mary Hicks will not be Secretary for 2019. Dave recommends the donation of the unused large kiln to the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Jewelry program. This means of disposal of this item supports our charter. Currently the class is using two small old kilns. Mary Hicks will send the Food Application information to Kelly. It was recommended by the CFMS attorney to move forward on a new domain name for the club. Debbie was instructed to get \$50 worth of items to support the making of Critters. No report if the show information was sent to Rock and Gem, it may be too late now but Mary Hi was directed to mail I the information. Dick will sent the information into CFMS. An issue about paying \$1700 a year to store \$400 of stuff was discussed. Dave and Dick will review storage. Thank you Debbie for the food and refreshments. Donna moved we adjourn, Mary Ha seconded.

Mary Hicks
Secretary



Ming Tree Making Day - September 30, 2018 (correct)

Critter Making Day - October 28, 2018

10:00 am - 3pm

Debbie Blevins' Home

1074 Kipling Ct. Concord, CA 94518

**Please sign up at the general meeting or
contact me at 925-680-6562 or**

(I found a type-0 in last month's issue of the Diablo Diggins. The Ming Tree Making Day is September 30, 2018, NOT September 28. My apologies !)

Show Meeting Notes

CCMGS Show Meeting at Centre Concord on August 13, 2018. Meeting started at 6:35 pm.

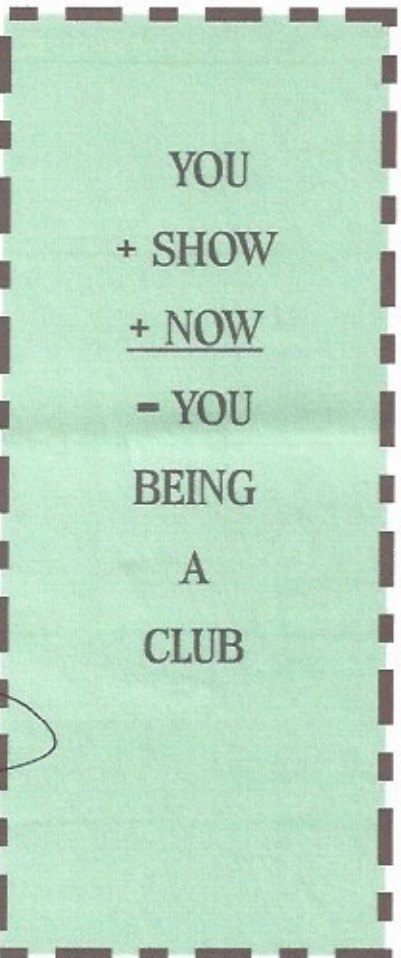
Present: Dick Pankey, Debbie and Larry Blevins, Naomi and Cheryl Morgan, Paul Black, Terry Caskey, Dave & Kim Kleesattel, Donna Albrecht, Kelly Plumb, Mary Hanjes, Mary Hicks, others may have sat down after the meeting was in progress. The table situation made it very difficult to keep track of the discussion and suggest a sign in sheet. (Centre Concord representative Raquel told me that Kelly had contacted her about getting the activity room at 5:30 pm prior to the regular meeting and that the cost was \$80 more. No updated contract has been signed to date.)

No set agenda. (Meeting scheduled with the Centre to add the start time for 5:30 pm at \$80 for the September and October meetings.)

Display Case (Exhibitor) organizer Dick Pankey (and Betty Pankey) did not submit the Exhibitor application form that was published in the August newsletter. That form was outdated and in error and must be discarded. He is submitting the current form for the September newsletter. Dick announced that Louise Gilley will be lead for the Friday night Dealer/Setup dinner. Please signup to help with the dinner. The Friday Setup Lunch (for volunteers helping with the setup) needs a lead. Member Sharon Neuhauser has signed up to help. Please signup to be the lead or to help with the lunch. Dick wants fliers to hand out, he will wait to work with Bob Rigor to get one designed for the 2018 show. He wants a few hundred. Mary Hicks said we ordered 2500 post cards for the 2017 show (these were mailed to people who have attended the show from the Door Prize forms, members such as the Antioch folks and some other clubs gleaned from the CFMS club list). She will print up the mailing labels to be use this year. ~~We have some stamps for the post cards from last year.~~

Members Henrich's have volunteered to stamp and label the post cards like they did last year. Debbie is in charge of the Lobby area and asked about the Hula drape used on the tables last year. If we need new drape she should obtain it. Repeated concern about Dealers and their staff failing to show their ID when entering, again this is covered in the Dealer contract and Paul Black will provide Dealers with their Entry/ID badges. He is the person to complain to about problems at the time of the show. Dealer Chair Paul Black reports

the Joyce Emerson (BJ Enterprises) will be joining us at this coming show. She has recovered from the major medical procedure she had in 2017. She is taking 4 tables and that gets us to 65 tables sold. All dealer money to date has been given to the club treasurer. Paul request another dealer be approved by the BOD members present. Donna proposed, Mary Hanjes and Bonnie both seconded. After questions were answered, all BOD members voted yes. Terry Caskey and Paul are going to get together to go over back tables. Donna A made up signup sheets. A reminder was made that the Demonstrators will be in the middle area of the Activities room. Bonnie E is the lead for arranging for Demonstrators. The position of Relief worker was described, they were used last year and a signup sheet is needed.



(Continued on next page)

Terry Caskey says he wants 10 people at the Centre at 6:30 am to help with laying out the string and electrical cords. People are needed until all the tables are skirted. Butcher paper is needed to be ordered for the table tops. Also gaffer tape is needed to be ordered. Also skirting needs to be ordered. The old style plastic table cloth is not fire resistant. It seems the new skirting comes in 14 foot lengths. This means after the final setup of the tables is determined, the lengths of the fire resistant cloth can be ordered. It may run around \$50 per unit. Dick said we need a Property Chair NOW, we must have an inventory so we will know what we have and what we need to get before the show. Kelly said she received a copy of the Temporary Food Permit application that goes to the County Health Department. Mary Jemigan not present, Mary Hicks will do ahead and make the Raffle Report for last show and send in the application for the next raffle permit (9/1/2018 to 8/31/2019). The California Department of Justice oversees the Raffle program. Future shows can be trimmed down to make for a simpler show and easier to get enough of volunteer club support. Donna suggest we get plastic arm bands for the vendors and attendees. Bonnie looked up to see what the bands may cost, around \$25 per 1000. Bonnie moved we get 2000 bands, seconded by Debbie, all ayes. Kelly will contact Mike about his education activity needs.

Meeting called for adjournment by Dick Pankey at 7:27 pm.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

CCMGS General Meeting August 2018 at Centre Concord

Meeting was called to Order by President Kelly Plumb. She announced we had a show meeting at 6:30 pm before this meeting and the all members are welcome. Get Involved in your Club NOW. Badge fines were collected. We had around 7 guests (later a family arrived). The podium was absent again, the Centre has not replaced the old one which got damaged. Door Prizes were awarded. Betty Pankey's stain glass class was announced. The club winner that got the jewelry class scholarship is Diana Skibiel. Display winners were announced and the items at the meeting tonight were announced. Dick Pankey said we are hosting the North Bay Field Trip meeting in September. Club members who will come help need to be there at 8 am for setup. We need IMMEDIATELY a 2018 Show Chair and Property Chair. And a new Secretary is also needed. Kelly and Lee will be calling members to recruit current open positions and for the 2019 Officer slate. We are having our annual auction at the September meeting. We enjoyed a fact filled lecture "Finding Light Inside Your Rock!" with spectacular examples.

Meeting was over at 9:30 pm. Thank you to all who brought refreshments.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

Rockhounding With Sally!



Upcoming Field Trips

Sept. 14 - 17.

Black Rock Desert, Nv.
Sacramento Mineral Society &

Mother Load Society

For Jaspers, Agates, P. Wood, Calcite, Geodes, Apache Tears.

Contact Gina Malcolm, (707) 685-4006,
animalnurse668@outlook.com.

Misty Watson, (209) 480-3176,
mistywatson@hotmail.com.

Oct. 6 -7.

Hawthorne & Mina Areas, Nv.

CMFS North / Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society.

A challenging, 4X4 adventure for a variety of..... material you would expect from a 4X4 adventure.

Contact Gene Doyle, (408) 605-9457,
eugene.doyle@sbeglobal.net. Or Jim Hutchings,
ihutchings22@hotmail.com.

Nov. 9 - 12.

Black Butte Lake and Stoney Creek, Ca.

Mother Load Mineral Society and Rockhound Field Trips Fanatics

Various Jasper and Agate.

Contact Kevin Kirschman, kkirschman@prodigy.net,
(209) 769-1502, or Kris Rowe, (559) 250-5057.

In addition, The Antioch Lapidary Club is planning the following field trips:

Sept. 14 - 16.

Covelol, Ca.

For Jade.

Oct.11.

Texas Springs, Nv.

For Limb Casts, Bog / Snakeskin Agate, Old Onyx Mine.

Early Nov.

Graveyard Point, Or.

For Plume Agate, P. Wood.

For the Antioch field trips, contact Dave Tirey, (925) 439-2893

Let me know if there's anything I'm missing.

And as long as I'm within range of a Cel. signal, I'm here, or there, to share any information I have, at olson86@yahoo.com, or

(925) 890-7116.

olson86

*Leave No
Trace*

A History Note from the September 2006 Diablo Diggin's written by Historian Hazel Woolsey

On August 25, 1950, fifty-six years ago this month, a meeting was held at the Alamo home of A.E. Davies to form a non-profit organization in Contra Costa County for persons interested in mineralogy and the lapidary arts. The following month, September 23 people held their first meeting at the Alamo School, formally inaugurating the Society. The next month (October), another 14 joined, with these 37 considered to be the "charter members." November's meeting was at the Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. Finding it difficult to secure a fixed date for their meetings at either the church or school, the group then moved to the Coast Counties Gas and Electric auditorium. This space was soon outgrown, and a wide search was conducted before securing a permanent meeting place at the clubhouse of the Walnut Creek Women's Club. The Christmas season of 1950 saw a dinner party at the Las Palmas Hotel in Walnut Creek to celebrate the recently formed club. What the group lacked in size at this event was made up in zest and enthusiasm. The Society's first field trip was to Covell in 1951. It's a bit uncertain, but this may have been a joint affair with Bob Diedrich's academic classes. The second Christmas party, 1951, was held at the Adobe Restaurant in Concord. By then the still enthusiastic crowd had grown considerably in size. Today (2006), the club reports 128 adult and 7 junior members.

Submitted by Mary Hicks, Secretary

Call for Exhibitors

Dick and Betty Pankey, Exhibit Chairmen

The Exhibitor Forms for the Contra Costa M&GS Annual Show are available. All of our members are invited and encouraged to put a display case into our show. To all of our past exhibitors it is now time to get your application submitted. The sooner the better. No need to wait until the last minute. If you haven't put in a display case before now is the time to start. If you collect rocks, minerals or fossils, if you polish or make things with rocks, or if you do beading or make jewelry you have the makings of a display case. If you don't know how to get started just give me a call and I will help.

Exhibit Forms will be available at our meetings, but you don't have to wait. Just e-mail me and I will send you a form by return e-mail. We have over 50 display case spots to fill and we want your case to be one of them. Return your Exhibitor Form as soon as possible and no later than October 15. Loaner cases are available. Our space is limited and encourage you to sign up early. If you would like more information and tips to set up your display please give us a call.

Please complete all information on the entry form and return to the Exhibit Chairmen for acceptance and acknowledgement. Return to: Dick and Betty Pankey, 4310 Kingsly Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565. If your entry is not acknowledged within 14 days, please contact the Exhibit Chairmen.

For additional information, please contact Dick and Betty Pankey at 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com.

Upcoming

Meetings

BOD September 2, 2018
5:30 Debbie Blevins' Home

Show Meeting September 10, 2018
6:30 Centre Concord

General Meeting September 10, 2018
7:30 Centre Concord



Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Annual Show November 3 & 4, 2018
Centre Concord, Concord, CA

Exhibitor Application
(one application per case)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION: _____

Do you have your own case? Size: Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

I need to borrow a Club Case: _____ We have a limited number of cases to loan, on a first come basis. The club does not provide liners or risers. Club cases inside dimensions are 46-1/4" x 22-3/4" x 22-1/4". The case sides and back are a finished light-colored wood. Two 100-watt floods illuminate from the top. **NO TAPE, STAPLES, TACKS, DRILL HOLES, OR OTHER ALTERATIONS ARE TO BE MADE TO THE CASE OR LIGHTING**

You are encouraged to include your name and your society's name in your case.

EXHIBITOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

Please complete all information on the entry form and return to the Exhibit Chairmen for acceptance and acknowledgement. Return to: **Dick and Betty Pankey, 4310 Kingsly Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565**. If your entry is not acknowledged within 14 days, please contact the Exhibit Chairmen. Case set-up after 2:00PM on Friday. All cases must be set up by 8:00 PM on Friday or by special arrangement with the Exhibit Chair. Cases may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday. All cases must be removed at the close of the show at 5:00PM, on Sunday.

For additional information, please contact Dick and Betty Pankey at 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com.

North Bay Field Trips

NBFT Fall Meeting
Saturday, September 22nd, 2018

Location: Community Presbyterian Church
 200 East Leland Road
 Pittsburg, CA 94565

Hosted by the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Schedule: 8:30 – 9:30 Registration / Social with donuts and coffee
 9:30 – 12:00 Business Meeting
 12:00 – 1:00 Potluck Lunch
 1:00 – 3:00 Conclude Business Meeting
 Program to be announced

This is a centrally located meeting site that is convenient for all NBFT clubs. 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. Bring food to share (hot dish, cold dish, salad or dessert) for the potluck. Also, bring your own plate and eating utensils. 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.

In addition to reports of summer field trips we will have election of Directors and bids to host the **Spring** meeting. We will also have announcements of fall, winter and spring field trips. And it is not too early to start thinking about 2019 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.

Directions: Take Hwy 4 to Pittsburg. Exit on to Railroad Ave. Go south on Railroad to Leland Rd., approximately ½ miles. Turn left (east) and go ¼ mile, then turn right into church parking lot. Easiest access is from south side of church.

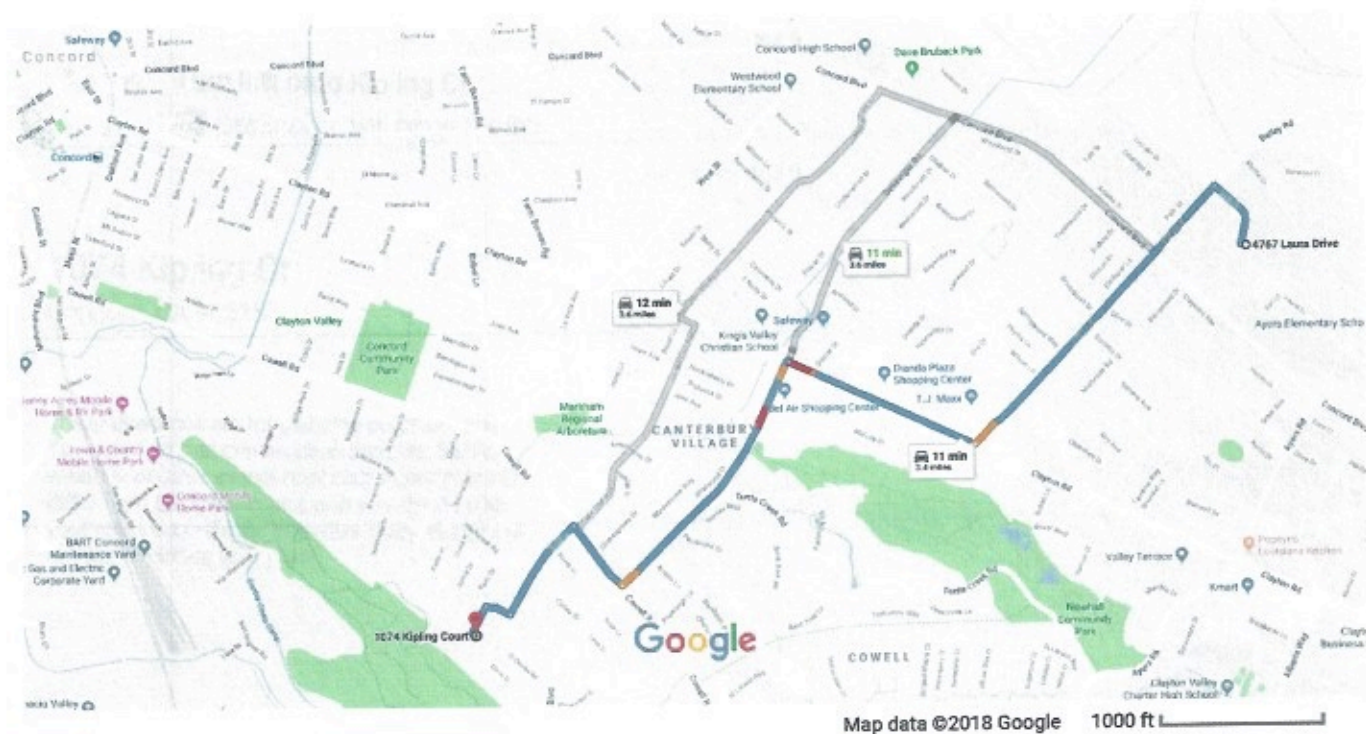
For more information contact Dick Pankey at 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com



Google Maps

4767 Laura Drive, Concord, CA to 1074
Kipling Ct, Concord, CA

Drive 3.4 miles, 11 min



4767 Laura Dr

Concord, CA 94521

↑ 1. Head north on Laura Dr toward Andrews Ct
1 min (0.2 mi)

Continue on Bailey Rd. Take Treat Blvd to Kaski Ln in
Concord
8 min (2.7 mi)

↶ 2. Turn left onto Bailey Rd
1.0 mi

↷ 3. Turn right after Blessed Cleaners (on the right)
● Pass by Pizza Hut (on the right)
0.6 mi

↶ 4. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Treat Blvd
● Pass by TOGO'S Sandwiches (on the right)
0.8 mi

↷ 5. Turn right onto Cowell Rd
0.2 mi

Continue on Kaski Ln. Drive to Kipling Ct
2 min (0.5 mi)

NBFT Fall Meeting

By Dick Pankey

The Contra Costa M&GS will host the North Bay Field Trips Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 22nd at the Community Presbyterian Church, 200 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565. Registration, with coffee and doughnuts begins at 8:30 AM and the meeting starts at 9:30. There are 13 societies in NBFT that work together to arrange and share field trips and other activities. The fall meeting is very important. We have had many fine field trips this past year through the combined efforts and cooperation of NBFT and COOP. The business part of the meeting is for reports of field trips since the last meeting, discussion and planning for future field trips and discussion of issues that affects field trips and collecting. The fun part of the meeting is the silent auction, sharing a potluck lunch and best of all getting together with other rockhounds.

All CCM&GS members who are interested in field trips are encouraged to attend this NBFT meeting and to join in the fun and be active in NBFT events. It is a great place to socialize with other rockhound friends, enjoy a fine potluck lunch and best of all hear about field trips to come and reports on field trips just taken. At each meeting we have a great silent auction of rocks, minerals, specimens, slab, petrified wood, and much, much more!! Bring something to share and your plate and utensils for the potluck lunch and bring rocks and rock related items for the silent auction. Also, bring Show-N-Tell from a recent trip.

Since we are hosting this meeting we will need help from our members to set up for the meeting and take down and clean up after the meeting. We will also need help in the kitchen with the coffee and donuts and with the potluck lunch. If you can help please arrive by 8:00 AM for set up. The more help we have the easier and faster it goes. Please give me a call or an e-mail to let me know that you will be there to help.

I have always looked forward to and enjoyed the NBFT meetings. Join us at the NBFT Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 22nd. For more information contact Dick Pankey at 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com.

Brag Book 2018

If anybody attends this NBFT fall meeting (above) will you take pictures and write articles for the Brag Book and submit to OHB@Astound.net

Many thanks, Debbie Blevins

SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS



The following members are scheduled to bring refreshments to the September General Meeting. If you are listed below and are not planning to attend, will you trade snack responsibility with another club member?

- Mike Hopkins
- Vikki Hotopp
- Pat Howard
- Lee Jacoby
- Mary Jernigan
- John Kell
- Dave & Kim Kleesattel
- Susan Manata
- Richard & Shannon Merrill
- Mario Mihalik
- Cheryl & Naomi Morgan
- Sharon Neuhauser
- Harry Nichandros

Mary Jernigan, Membership

Happy Birthday



to the following to the following
members
Who have birthdays this month:

- Gary Casillas. 9/10
- Naomi Morgan. 9/21

Happy Anniversary



Mike Federoff. 9/30

Mary Jernigan, Membership

CFMS Field Trips - North Field Trip to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek

July 26 – 29, 2018

By Dick Pankey

What do you have when you combine 78 rockhounds from all over California with the premier Californian obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful sheen obsidian? You have the CFMS Field Trip-North's field trip to the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek area in the Warner Mountains of far northeast California. The Contra Costa M&GS hosted this field trip for Jim Barton, the CFMS FT-N Chairman, to collect the abundant and beautiful obsidian of Buck Mtn. Due to the large size of our group Jim and I shared the responsibilities of leading to the 4 designated collecting sites: Middle Fork Davis Creek, Needles, Pink Lady and Rainbow Mine. We had a total of 78 members and guests from 19 CFMS societies from as far away as San Diego and El Centro. What a great turnout!

Betty and I arrived at the turnoff from Hwy 395 late on Wednesday afternoon where I put out the first of the orange paper plates to guide our attendees to the Lassen Creek Campground. At the end of our 12 hour/400 mile drive we parked our trailer near the entrance to the campgrounds ready to welcome the expected attendees. We expected most people to arrive starting on Thursday, but about a dozen or so were already in camp when we got there. Thursday morning Betty and I took our customary drive to check out the roads and collecting sites so that there would be no surprises on our 3 collecting days. On Thursday afternoon I set up a "Sign In" table; there are a lot of administrative details for an event like this. I had a "Camp Sign In" to find out who was with us and where they were from; "Waiver of Liability Form for insurance purposes; and the "Free Use Permit" that gives us permission to collect. Most of our group camped at the Lassen Creek CG in trailers, motorhomes, vans, pickup trucks, and tents. Several of our group "Moteled It" in Alturas. The weather was sunny and great the whole 5 days; cool nights, beautiful mornings, warm afternoons and evenings. Most of our attendees were experienced collectors that had been on many field trips. But we also had a lot of people and families that this was their first, big, multi-day event and were not sure what to expect. FAQ'S: What tools should I bring? Where are the toilets? What should I bring to a potluck or happy hour? Can I get a ride to the collecting sites? How will I know what to collect? All good questions. And I tried my best to provide good answers. On day 1 the new-bees were easy to recognize but by Saturday everyone was an experienced field tripper. On Thursday afternoon a nice looking newer camper van pulled in and picked out a place to park. When she came over to sign in is when I met Patt. She had been a rockhound for less than 2 years and this was her first big, multi-day trip and she was attending by herself. Oh, and by the way she was only 92 years old! I am sure she was the oldest participant. Because her van was not suitable for the FS roads, Patt road with me to the collecting sites.

Our first day of collecting was on Friday. About 8:00 AM I rang my big cow bell to call the anxious obsidian collectors together to get the information for the day's activities. We formed 2 lines of vehicles on either side of the road one behind my truck and one line behind Jim's truck. Without a lot of direction nor guidance the group divided themselves pretty equally behind our trucks; there were approximately 18 vehicles in each caravan. On Friday Jim led his caravan to the Pink Lady and the Needles sites and I led my group to the Middle Fork Davis Creek site. Then on Saturday we flip-flopped. On Sunday I led the group to the Rainbow site which is only a mile from camp. At 8:30 AM, **SHARP**, Jim's group headed out. When they cleared camp I led my group out from camp. We get an early start because these first 3 sites are about an hour's drive away when caravanning and it gets hot in the afternoon. By about 1:00 we start our trek towards Camp by way of the Davis Creek Mercantile where we can get ice-cream, snacks and food, expensive gas, and best of all toilets with doors. On the way back to camp there is a road cut just off of Hwy 395 north of Davis Creek where we find Apache Tears and "stubby needles".

(Continued on next page)

Everywhere you go on Buck Mtn and this area of the Warner Mtn you can find obsidian in a great variety of colors, sheens, patterns, shapes and textures. The 4 designated dig sites are the main attraction. As the classic rockhound saying goes "dig where others have dug." And that is true at the Middle Fork Davis Creek, Needles, Pink Lady and Rainbow Mine sites. There are many pits to choose from and it is just a matter of choosing one and start digging. Good obsidian is often showing in the pits which is a good sign. When collecting sheen obsidian good sunlight, and proper orientation is important. I found many good pieces that were thrown away by inexperienced diggers in their discard piles. I spent time showing new people how to "window" (knock off a chip) and orient the obsidian to find the sheen. Soon with a little practice they were finding the good obsidian in the discard piles also. Most people that were digging were finding baseball to football size pieces but a few 75 to 100 plus pound pieces were found. Most of the sheen obsidian at the Middle Fork Davis Creek is multi-colored red, blue and green-blue. Some grey sheen and "wood grained," grey obsidian can be found. At the Rainbow Mine much of the sheen obsidian is a striking, vivid blue, but vivid green and purple can be found. Silver Sheen and some gold sheen is prevalent. The Needles site has some really interesting material. As the name indicates the obsidian found here are "slivers" of obsidian ranging in size from a sewing needle size to 10 inches long to 20 inches long pieces. Needles are dug commercially and by rockhounds to make delicate wind chimes. At the Needles site you can also find mahogany obsidian and nodules that contain various colors of sheen. The commercial diggers are only after the larger, longer needles and are happy to give away the mahogany obsidian and nodules.

There is more to an event like this than the obsidian. It is the people we meet and get to know. It is the happy hours and talking together; making new friends. It is the wonderful potluck we shared On Saturday evening we had a marvelous potluck dinner. I rang the dinner bell about 5:45 and people showed up with their table, chairs and the food to share. Soon we filled 5 serving table with meat dishes, a variety of salads, vegetable dishes and deserts, deserts, deserts. I lost count at 65 for the people that attended. There was so much great food. Rockhounds are great cooks.

On Friday evening 3 USFS personnel came out to our camp. Chris Bielecki, who manages the obsidian program, spoke about the history and current status of the Free Use Permit and the process to establish it and the collecting regulations for the National Forest. Sally Carter who helped with the Special Use Permit and the Free Use Permits for our event, talked to us about the purpose of Special Use Permits and how they are used. Mylo Grote is an intern who gave us a fascinating talk about the history of the area. It is always beneficial for us to get to know USFS personnel and for them to get to know us as people and as users of the Public Lands.

As part of our CFMS FT-N trip we conducted a cleanup of the 4 designated collecting sites, the Lassen Creek Campground and the FS roads that we drove on to the digs. I have led and attended many trips to this area since 1991 and the area shows the signs of responsible rockhounds: No (or at least extremely little) litter or trash. We have conducted cleanups of this area in the past with similar results. 78 rockhounds spent 4 days driving the roads, hours at the collecting sites and they found negligible trash. But we did find a lot of obsidian. We can be proud of ourselves; we have been practicing "Leave No Trace" and "Pack It In/Pack It Out". The little trash that we did find was piled behind my truck during the 4 days of our field trip to make room in our trucks for all of the obsidian that we collected. On Monday morning at the conclusion of our event I loaded the collected trash for transport to the USFS office in Alturas. Even though the amount of trash and litter was small we left the area cleaner than when we arrived which is always a good feeling.

It was hard to write a report like this. There was so much I wanted to tell you about our event but there just isn't enough room in the CFMS Newsletter. My parting thought--It was Great! Thank you Jim for asking me to lead this trip.

Richard Pankey
Field Trip Leader and a user of our Public Lands

CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY

P O Box 842, Concord, Ca 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm 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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Ecology and Public Lands Open	Historian Debbie Blevins (925)680-6562 ohb@astound.net	Show Open

September 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BOD Meeting	*Skyscraper Day	*Eat An Extra Dessert Day		*Fight Procrastination Day	*Salami Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Show/General Meeting	*Make Your Bed Day	*Chocolate Milkshake Day		Covolol & Black Rock Desert F/T	Covolol & Black Rock Desert F/T
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Covelol & Black Rock Desert F/T	Black Rock Desert F/T		October Diggins' Articles Due	*Punch Day		*Hobbit Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Autumn Begins			*Love Note Day	*Crush A Can Day	*Good Neighbor Day	
30						

Ming Tree Making Day

* <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/>

First Class
 Member of American and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 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
 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 Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Road and Balham Drive next to Clayton Valley Bowl.)
 Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!