



Concord, CA

January, 2018

Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

Vol. 66, No. 1

This newsletter is available by email - contact the editor



January 2018 President's Message



I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday Season!

I just missed the Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics' "last gasp" field trip because I worked through the holidays. But never fear, Quartzsite is here! By now, I would imagine Dick and Betty Pankey are there (or almost) and will shortly have the "Ye Old Timers" campsite set up and ready to Rock and Roll!

The Christmas Party was a blast! Festivities included the usual gift exchanges and a great meal. Si and Anne Frazier installed the 2018 officers, (Thank You, Thank You Thank You Si and Ann!!! In case nobody has guessed, they are my Rockhound Heros!) There was an "Ugly Sweater" contest. Hey Joanne, just because I am president, does that mean I have to go around with the #1 on my back all the time?

Anyway, with Joanne Caskey's urging, I donated some homemade jam for second prize. Guess who won second prize?? Needless to say, I passed it on to the next person.

Dues are due! If possible pay by the January meeting. Don't risk being dropped from the newsletter or having to pay a new initiation fee.

I want to thank everyone for a great year as President of this wonderful club. I am looking forward to another fun and entertaining year in 2018. There are new faces and some old ones on the board. I hope the membership will grow also. Let's spread the message! WE DIG ROCKS!

Wishing each of you Seasons Greetings. I hope you had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukka, Happy Kwanza, Happy New Year and any other celebration I may have missed! I'll see you at the January meeting!

Kelly Plumb, President

CCM&GS 2018 Membership Dues Are Due !
See Pages 3 and 7 for more information.

*Happy
New
Year!*



**BOD and Show
Meetings Sunday,
January 7, 2018 (See
page 7 for more
information.)**

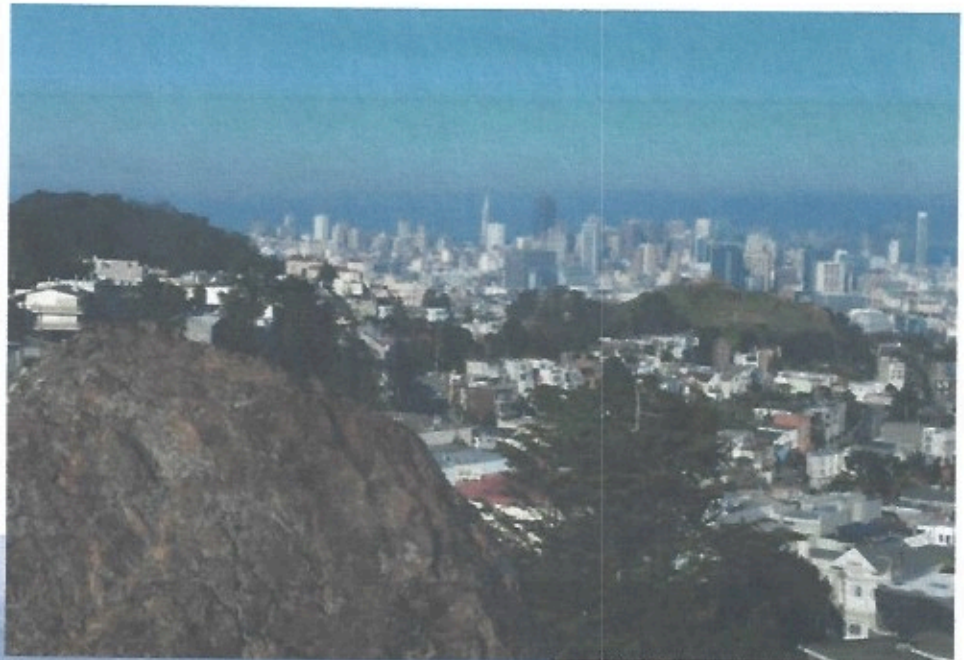
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San Francisco Geoscapes
Speaker: John Karachewski, PhD
Monday January 8, 2018

San Francisco Geoscapes

Discover the complex and interesting geology of San Francisco. This scenic slide show will highlight the beautiful and surprising geologic landscapes (Geoscapes) and rocks in The City. John will discuss plate tectonics, glacial cycles and flooding of San Francisco Bay as well as the 1906 earthquake. John will also be available to suggest day trips within 'The City' as well as to parks in neighboring areas.

John Karachewski is a geologist for the California-EPA in Berkeley. He has conducted geology and environmental projects throughout the western United States from Colorado to Alaska, the Midway Island, and throughout California. Doris Sloan and John collaborated on a popular book about the Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region, published by the University of California Press.



By: Donna Albrecht, 1st Vice President, Programs

NAOMI MORGAN FEATURED IN ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE!

Naomi's Intarsia images (sometimes called Pietra Dura) she shows at the annual show are always a hit. In the January Rock & Gem Magazine, there is an article written by Donna Albrecht about the history of this craft and how Naomi creates these remarkable images. It starts on page 54.



By Donna Albrecht

CCM&GS Membership Dues are Due

Greetings, Everyone - Membership dues to CCM&GS are now due for the 2018 year. According to our CCM&GS Bylaws, dues are due by December 31th for the next year. We have lots of interesting things to share with you and we want YOU to stay connected!

Renew your CCM&GS memberships TODAY!

Annual membership dues are \$10 (for current members), payable to CCM&GS.

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
PO Box 842, Concord, CA 94522-0842

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact me.
Thank you for being part of our great Rockhound Family!

Mary Jernigan - Membership
m10jernigan@yahoo.com
(925) 852-1133

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society BOD Meeting Minutes December 3, 2017

The meeting was held at the Hicks Residence in Antioch, CA and was called to order at 5:35pm.

Present Were: President Kelly Plumb, Program VP Dennis Freiberger, Field Trip VP Chuck Olson, Treasurer Mary Hanjes, Federation Director Dick Pankey, Membership Mary Jernigan, Secretary Mary Hicks, 2017 Show Chair Mary Hicks, Editor Debbie Blevins, Property Dave Kleesattel, Librarian Paul Black

President

Kelly Plumb – Opened the meeting with a greeting. Approval of the BOD meeting minutes from October (no BOD meeting was held in November). Dick Pankey moved to accept, 2nd by Chuck Olson, all said aye.

Secretary

Mary Hicks - Correspondence included Dues, CA Dept. of Equalization (see new business), CFMS, AFMS and ALAA newsletters. Officer Ins. Policy was received and mentioned. A letter was sent to Si & Ann Frazier about the December meeting.

Officer and Chair Reports

Dennis Freiberger - This coming meeting will be Dennis' final meeting as Program VP. He has done a great job encouraging members to share their special talents and interests. It has been nice to learn from fellow members and to get to know what their interests are. Dennis brought the Centre Concord contract for the 2018 General Meetings. (See new business.) Donna Albrecht will be in charge of Programs in 2018 and will administer the contract. Dennis had some information he passed on to the BOD and he hopes to inform our members about programs and program support. The contract states we can enter for our meetings at 6:30pm, NO EARLIER. We do not pay to come in earlier. We must continue our "Leave no trace" policy. After we have left the room, Dennis has policed the room by removing any items left by the meeting attendees. We are to leave the room VACUUM READY. After we are out of the room, the club must go to the office and have the staff check out the room and lock up. Other information. The Club does not have a projection screen. We pay a fee (minor) to the Centre. We have no notebook computer. We have been using Dennis' or the presenter has brought their own. The club notebook was sent to e-waste two years ago. When that notebook was purchased it was not the best quality, the virus protection programs were not maintained, and programs were not updated. If the club gets a laptop in the future the machine needs to be maintained, the plan to

do this needs to go along with getting one. The old PA System needs to be disposed of, as the wire coatings are cracking and is many years old. It was last used when we met at the Presbyterian Church downtown Concord. We do not have portable speakers and the DVD player is ancient and of which should also be disposed. During Dennis' tenure, he did not give out appreciation certificates and only a few club coffee mugs. Dennis has returned the supplies to Dave. Items we have used that belong to the Centre and are not in the contract are the screen, podium, audio system and flag. The 2017 contract was signed by Dennis and Dave and is paid by Treasurer, Mary Hanjes. See new business regarding the 2018 General meeting contract with the Centre.

Federation Report

Dick Pankey - See the club newsletter. A lot took place at the Fall Federation Meeting. The Stamp Program donations were called for and 8-9 Directors turned in their stamps. These go to Easter Seals in Sacramento. Dick mentioned that Debbie Blevins turned in a huge tote full of clipped stamps and she was presented with a Thank You note for her impressive donation. Dick asked the Secretary to send in the form of 2018 officers to CFMS and specify Dick as the club contact. ALL dues are now due and a \$50 check was requested. Mary Hanjes will send in the payment. The club dues and insurance check for CFMS is sent with the membership number for 2017, with names (no contact information) after January 1, 2018 per our By Laws.

Education

Bonnie Eichler was not able to attend but she sent the following written request. "I would like board approval to continue the jewelry class scholarship program for each of 3 terms at the Mt. Diablo Adult Education school. Even if we don't have applicants for each term for 2018, I think it's still a good thing for our club." This jewelry course, taught by member Gary Casillas, teaches lost wax techniques and fabrication. Applicants get approved by the Board, has manageable requirements, and the scholarship money is paid after the member completes the course and requirements."

Field Trips

Chuck Olson reported on the Thanksgiving trip lead by Dick and Betty Pankey to Black Butte Lake area in northern California. There were 25 people for a warm spirited Thanksgiving potluck. There was a total of 37 rockhounds representing various clubs who attended the event and went on rock collecting forays. Chuck says the next outing to be offered to club members will be in the newsletter about Quartzsite, AZ.

Treasurer

Mary Hanjes presented an Income/Expense report showing account balances. We are right in line with our club's financial history. The expenses for the show are almost all in, the food expense for the kitchen, Sat & Sun was \$550. Scott told the Show Chair that the donated purchased desserts were very important in keeping the profit healthy for the kitchen effort. Payment for budgeted expenses were paid.

Membership

Mary Jernigan - The membership dues mailed to the club PO Box were given to Mary J. She reported she had an application for membership from Diana Skibiell, a resident of Walnut Creek. Diana came to the 2017 education show and came to the November General meeting. Mary J recommended Diana's acceptance, Debbie 2nd, all ayes. Welcome Diana. The board was informed that a prior member, Lee King, passed away at the age of 93. The club was informed of Lee's passing by another former member Sandy Rouze. Dick Pankey stated that Lee was the person who made the glass and rock Diablo Dan picture that is displayed at the show each year. Betty and Dick Pankey have maintained this club icon. Most of us did not know that Lee King had designed and constructed the Diablo Dan display. Please look at this display with new appreciation when it is next setup for our viewing pleasure. Thank you to Dick and Betty for taking care of it and letting us know about this important point of club history.

Property

Dave Kleesattel reported he is cleaning the storage locker as he has time. He says there is a "like new" small kiln, a 6-inch flat lap, a small tumbler, a large kiln that needs to be tested, an old tv and an assortment of other items that need to find new homes. He wants to move on these items soon. If you want to see what prices can be negotiated you should contact Dave asap. Dave said that two exhibition case fronts were broken at the show when loading them into the trailer. These case fronts are delicate and can not be jammed into the storage slides. They can come apart going in or when being removed. He said that he heard a comment that damaging a case wasn't to be worried about because the club has many cases. Really! The club now has a number of cases that need to be repaired, a work party is needed to get us whole for this important asset. The majority of the heavy old 6 and 8-foot long tables have been passed on which frees space in the trailer and lightens the load. Dave plans on keeping 2 tables in the storage locker to support work parties for making critters, stuffing grab bags, and other work party gatherings.

Dick Pankey requested the size of the new tires on the trailer so he can order tire covers. (ST225 75-15). A question arose asking if the club has "Good Rocks" for the 2018 show's silent auction? Mary Hanjes requested someone to come over and help identify the good rocks from the bad. She also needs to cover the rock trove to keep them clean. Mary Hicks has a heavy canvas tarp to donate.

Librarian

Paul Black has no report at this time.

Editor

Debbie Blevins has volunteered to continue on as the club's Editor. Reports and articles must be to her no later than December 19th. Do not procrastinate please. Debbie has volunteered to develop the club's CFMS themed All American (brag) book for 2018. This activity is to compile the information capturing what the club and members do during the year. It is a good resource to help new members learn about the club too. The book when completed will be kept in the Library.

Old Business

Debbie Blevins contacted many locations to see about possible locations for our monthly General Meeting. Many parameters were considered-location, size of room, cost as an example. Centre Concord came out at the top of the lineup. So the recommendation is to stay right where we are. Thank you, Debbie, for putting so much effort to do this research.

2017 Show

A wrap up meeting took place earlier in the day. Mary Hicks received good comments on what went well as well as areas for improvement for a fun successful show. She will organize this body of comments and report back to the 2018 Show committee, BOD, and interested members. Right now, the President Kelly Plumb will need to assign tasks and guidance in preparation for the next show. She and Dennis will be meeting with the city staff to develop the contract. Mary is still available to host the meetings and support the next show, but the club members need to support the club and volunteer to be the Show Chair. There is lots of support for the Show Chair, do not take advantage of members who are already carrying a full load such as the President, the Secretary, etc. Love your Club!

New Business

Mary Hicks-A Domain Name – ccmgs.rocks has been registered. This domain name was accepted by the Board. It is club property and is not owned by Mary. The BOD needs to develop a goal and scope of a club website. Such as the club meeting location, programs, show information, etc. The site must be overseen by the Board and President and is not someone's personal property and must be open, no coding that excludes access by authorized club members, etc.

Mary also reported that:

- The State filing with the Franchise Tax Board is being renewed. More information will follow in future meetings.
- The club's annual fee for PO Box 842 has been paid.
- December 31st is when the trailers \$10 fee for registration is due. No notice has been received in the PO Box and Mary will consider this and will make sure the money is sent to DMV before the end of the year.

Kelly Plumb and Mary Hanjes will propose a budget in January. This budget draft will be in Excel and sent to the President.

Dennis requested that \$200 be in the budget for the club's general publicity efforts.

Anyone who needs a Donation Form is to contact Mary Hanjes for one.

Dennis had the contract for the General Meeting with him which needed required signatures. Thank You to Dennis for working on a full-service rental. Rent increase is about 8.7%. The rental is \$3,432 for 12 meetings. Only one other organization does monthly rentals. The signing of the contract was proposed by President Kelly Plumb and seconded by Mary Hanjes. All ayes. Dennis is supporting getting the contract signed.

We need to increase membership. One board member said we are a slowly dying society. The average attendance to the General Meeting has averaged 37. The range has been 33 to 45.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

END

Mary Hicks
Secretary

General Meeting December 11, 2017**DUES ARE DUE !!**

After December 31, 2017, your 2018 dues are PAST DUE. Please pay up promptly as we send the club dues and insurance check to CFMS early January. Please send in your money now. The CCMGS P O Box is 842, Concord, CA 94522. We are Rockhounds, not your Dueshound!

The meeting room was decorated starting at 6pm. Members arrived at 6:30pm with their potluck item and a gift if they wanted to participate in the gift exchange. Our club tree was decorated with lights and shining garland. The tables were cute with wrapped gift boxes. There was plenty of food both dinner fare and desserts.

The meeting started at 7:05 pm with a greeting from our President Kelly Plumb. She directed attendees to line up for the self-service dinner by designated tables. The actual meeting commenced at 7:45pm. Betty Pankey read the birthdays from the bulletin. There were about 38-40 persons in attendance.

Alan Felker announced that a person in the Grass Valley area had their house and shop burn to the foundation. They are not asking for money but tools. Contact Alan for more information.

Ann and Si Frazier were present to oversee the installation of the elected officers for 2018. Ann shared with the club that she and Si took care of a Junior Program in 1963 and their first member was Kelly Plumb when she was a young child. They were happy to do our installation. Ann briefly covered the duties of each officer, the complete details are in the bylaws.

The list includes President Kelly Plumb, (absent Vice President of Programs Donna Albrecht), 2nd Vice President of Field Trips Chuck Olson, Treasurer Mary Hanjes, Federation Director Dick Pankey, Secretary Mary Hicks. They all swore to carry on their duties and each received a cute Rockhound pup with individual bead collars showing their position.

Then Kelly thanked the appointed chairs: Bonnie Eichler Education, Paul Black Librarian, Joanne Caskey for the party, Cheryl Morgan for displays, Naomi Morgan for Sergeant at Arms, Betty Pankey Greeter, Terry Caskey for past Editor, Debbie Blevins Editor, Mary Jernigan for Membership. Because they all go after rocks like a dog after bones, they were given a dog bone and a jar of homemade jam. (The jam was made by Kelly.)

Dues are Due

The club's Rock Hound of the Year-Junior category was awarded to Taylor Thompson.

The club's Rock Hound of the Year-Adult category was awarded to Debbie Blevins.

Bonnie Eichler collected canned food and monetary contributions for the Contra Costa County Food Bank. There were 17 members and guests who participated in the gift exchange. One member left early and will be given their present at the earliest opportunity. There were 11 participants in the Ugly Sweater Contest which was won by Bonnie Eichler, 2nd by Larry Blevins, and 3rd by Kelly Plumb. Winners were selected by votes of those present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Best Wishes to All for the Holidays and we will see you next year.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

EDUCATION CORNER

Stained glass taught by Betty Pankey to be held Saturday, February 3rd & Saturday, February 10th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (need to attend both days) at the Hobby Lobby, 5849 Lone Tree Way, in Antioch. Limit is 6 students, a minimum of 4 students needed to attend. Betty will be providing initial supplies and tools. There will be no cost to club members in good standing, but please make sure you attend if you sign up.

Bonnie Eichler

Mark your calendar for the NBFT spring meeting on April 14, 2018. More information to follow in future issues of the Diablo Diggins.

Betty Pankey

****CCM&GS 2018 Membership Dues Are Due****

The new 2018 Rockhound Year is already here! Have you remembered to pay your 2018 CCM&GS Membership dues? Catch up on your dues before the end of January. We don't want you to miss out on any of our interesting CCM&GS Programs, Club Fieldtrips, Diggins' Newsletters, or Rockhound Classes and Activities.

Annual membership dues renewal are only \$10 for current CCM&GS members. (Reinstated membership dues are \$15 per the Bylaws) Please send your dues check payable to CCM&GS.

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

Please contact me for CCM&GS Membership assistance. See you soon!

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

"Comments for improving the November education show can be sent to maryhicks@comcast.net or to her at PO Box 2064, Antioch, CA 94531. The club needs a Show Chair for 2018, if you have never done this job for the club, it is now your turn! If you are interested let President Kelly Plumb know asap. There is plenty of support for the Show Chair from the Show Committee and the club members."

Mary Hicks

Show Meeting
3pm

Board of Directors Meeting
5:30pm

Both meetings are being held at Mary Hicks' home on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 2418 Larkin Court, Antioch, CA 94531 (Light snacks will be provided in between meetings.)



Rockhounding With Sally!

Hi Folks,

Well, we had another great Thanksgiving Field Trip that included about 35 rockhounds for our Pot Luck Dinner! Sally and I had a chance to catch up with friends from near and far. And look down below, for the rock I found!

Our next best bets for Field Trips;

January 8 - 22, 2018
Quartzsite, Az.

Betty and Dick Pankey will once again be heading up as
Wagon Masters,

for Ye Old Timers Mineral Club's, Quartzite camp, just
north of Quartzite,

This is a great bunch of Rockhounds with whom to camp.
And we're all invited too! See more information and
internet links on page 10.

In addition to Field Trips the Pankey's have in store for us,
The Quartzsite Improvement Association is sponsoring two
different Field Trips each day, out of Quartzsite, January
18th through the 22nd. These are day trips. With a wide
variety of collection possibilities.

There's a lot more information on the Association's
website: <http://www.qiaarizona.org>.

Scroll down to where it says, for Field Trips, click, "here."
And then, click there.

And if that's not enough;

January 7, 2018
Lead Mountain, Barstow, CA
Mining Supplies and Rock Shop
9565 C Ave. Suite K
Hesperia, Ca. 92340

For Calcite, Quartz and Barite crystals. This is a rock shop
that sponsors monthly field trips, lead by Justen Zzyzy.
Contact Cyndy Mandell at cyndymandell@me.com. (760)
244-9642.

View their website at,
<http://www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com/index.php/public-guided-field-trips/>

February 17, 2018

Lavic Siding

Barstow, Ca.

CFMS South.

For Agates and Jaspers. Contact Adam Dean:
theagatehunter@verizon.net (909) 489 4899 or Roy Isaac:
Ibionicedj@gmail.com (818) 633-3350.

Let me know if you'd like more information on any of this,
and if you know of anything I'm missing.

As long as I'm within range of a cell signal, I'm here, or
there, to share any information I have, at
olson86@yahoo.com, or (925) 890-7116

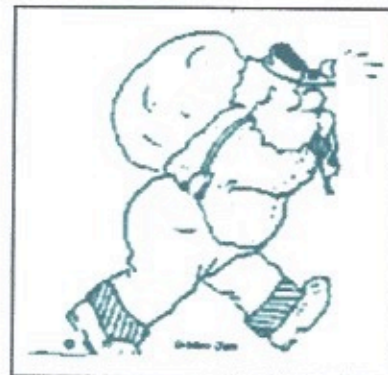


How's this for a garden rock?

Olson 86

Since he asked, "Pretty Spectacular"!

Larry & Debbie Blevins



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

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. If you need to mail them, my address is 1074 Kipling Ct., Concord, CA 94518.

Debbie Blevins
Member

So much more !

Left/Below: Article from <https://xpopress.com/show/exposearch>



January and February, 2018

The schedule of events can be found on the website at <https://xpopress.com/show/exposearch>

BLM CAMPING QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA



The Quartzsite shows are famous among professional and amateur lapidaries and jewelry artists. The small desert town lies about 18 miles east of the Arizona-California border, and about 250 miles northwest of Tucson. A quiet town of about 3,000 year-round residents, that population explodes during the January-February show, making Quartzsite a vibrant outdoor desert shopping mall. About 3,000 vendors from all over come to Quartzsite to sell virtually anything and everything, including serious dealers (about 500) of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and jewelry. Of the ten or more shows happening simultaneously, there are four that are strictly rock and mineral related: Desert Gardens Show, QIA Pow Wow, Prospector's Panorama, and Tyson Wells Show. Prices are notoriously cheap — compared to Tucson, where costs for many of the same items tend to be quite higher. All shows have free admission and parking — though very difficult to find — and no registration is required.

Download the Official Guide to the annual Quartzsite Showcase & Swapmeet. The full-color, 25,000-circulation *Quartzsite EZ-Guide* promotes the 10 shows and various swapmeets open for business every December thru February — publishing show dates, hours, addresses, contact information, floorplans and maps, and a complete list of every dealer and vendor at the shows, and some great articles for readers to enjoy. This guide is distributed on special racks at all of the shows and many local businesses during show time each year.

Left/Below: By Robyn Hawk, 11/30/17

It seems the spirit of exploration and discovery has been part of the American psyche since the landing of the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. We have always looked to areas and lands beyond what was already inhabited in our constant push west.

Today, it seems that spirit has been lit in the hearts of new generations. RVs are no longer your grandparents toys. We are seeing young couples and young families choosing

The remainder of the article can be found on website at <https://xpopress.com/show/exposearch>

Thanksgiving at Black Butte Lake

Dick Pankey, Field Trip Leader

We had a great turnout for the Contra Costa M&GS Thanksgiving weekend collecting trip to Black Butte Lake, West of Orland, CA. The area surrounding Black Butte Lake is well known for colorful jasper and occasional chunks of agate and petrified wood. The jasper is found in a variety of colors and patterns of yellow, orange, red and green. This area is managed by the Army Corp of Engineers. We camped at the Buckhorn CG, with restrooms, hot showers, flush toilets and water but no hook-ups. We were the first of our group to arrive at the Buckhorn CG early on Wednesday afternoon and somebody had parked their trailer in our reserved campsite and left for the day. Fortunately we were able to park in another of our reserved sites for overnight. The owners of the trailer returned about dark, and we were able to resolve the issue as they packed up and moved to another campsite.

Starting mid-Thursday morning others of our group started arriving. A motor home from the Vallejo club arrived with mom and dad and 9 kids ranging in age from 11 to 22 years old. They were housed in the motor home and 2 tents. By 3:00 we had 25 people in camp for our Thanksgiving Potluck. The weather was warm and sunny and we were able to serve our dinner al fresco, just in front of our trailer. There was the usual turkey, dressing and mashed potatoes and a tasty variety of side dishes, vegetables and desserts. After dinner we enjoyed our first campfire.

On Friday morning we set out on our first collecting trip to a wide dry river wash on the far south side of the lake. All of our collecting was surface collecting that involved easy digging for the larger, partially buried jasper nodules. The size of the river tumbled jasper pieces ranged in size from small fist size pieces to 30, 40, and maybe up to 60 pound garden rocks. Most of the material was readily visible even when slightly buried and easily found. With a spritz of a spray bottle the red, yellow, green colors of the jaspers were easily seen. More rock was available than any of us really needed, so we could be very selective. There were a variety of patterns: mostly swirls and splotches but some brecciated, poppy, and eyes.

Saturday morning we went to the west side of the lake to collect where several riverlets/streams had carried in the jasper nodule from the surrounding hills. The jasper here was similar but interestingly different. We collected a bunch more!

Black Butte Lake was built by the Army Corps of Engineers. Their management rules prohibited the removal of rocks from the lake and land surrounding the lake. BUT it is permitted IF you obtain a "Special Use Permit". I contacted Amber Machado, USACE Park Ranger and she facilitated the permit process for me. While collecting on Friday and Saturday we crossed paths with several Rangers but were never stopped nor asked what we were doing or to see our permit. But we were ready if they did.

There were 37 people signed in for this trip, and most camped with us for at least for one or two nights. We had a Soup Potluck on Friday evening and burnt a lot of wood at our campfire every night. Black Butte Lake was a wonderful site for our field trip and Thanksgiving Potluck and we will look for a new site for Thanksgiving 2018.



*Happy
New
Year!*



Happy Anniversary to our members who were married this month and are celebrating an anniversary.

Dave & Kim Kleesattel 1/1
Hitesh Joshi 1/11

Mary Jernigan
Membership

January Refreshments



Thank you to club members who bring snacks to our general meetings each month.

If you are not able to attend the next meeting and your name is listed below, will you please contact another member and trade "snack responsibility" places with them?

Mary Hanjes
Donna Heath
Christine Henningsson
Don & Margaret Henrich
Mary Hicks
Mike Hopkins
Vikki Hotopp
Pat Howard
Jason Jackson
Mary Jernigan & Taylor Thompson
Hitesh Joshi
Dave & Kim Kleesattel
Connie Klein
Joan Lightfoot

Mary Jernigan
Membership

Happy Birthday
to the following members
who have birthdays this month:



Mary Hicks	1/1
Kim Kleesattel	1/3
Mary Hanjes	1/7
Alan Felker	1/10
Howard Shamy	1/17
Ophelia Hicks	1/20
Mark Blackman	1/20
Lyle Roessler	1/28
Paul Black	1/28

Mary Jernigan
Membership

*If you're going to
Quartzsite or Lead
Mountain, will you please
take pictures and submit
them to me for the Brag
Book? Thank you.*

*Debbie Blevins
ohb@astound.net*

December's Potluck and Christmas Party



Above: Holiday Cheer with Mary Jernigan & Taylor Thompson



Above: Rockhound Friends- Terry Caskey, Joanne Caskey & Mario Mihalik



Right: Joanne Caskey kicks off the Christmas dinner with attitude!

All Photos Submitted by Mary Jernigan



Left: Taylor Thompson - CCM&GS 2017 Jr. Rockhound of the Year Pebble Pup to Rockin' Rockhound. Mary Jernigan is Taylor's Rockhound Mom. Taylor started attending our meetings and activities with her mother when she was a small child. We are very proud of Taylor and all of her accomplishments throughout the years. Congratulations Taylor!



Right: Debbie Blevins - CCM&GS 2017 Rockhound of the Year Thank you for your involvement



Above: Ugly Sweater Contestants paraded at the CCM&GS 2017 Christmas Dinner. So many great sweaters to choose from.....made it FUN for everyone!

Photos Submitted by Mary Jernigan

CONTRA COSTA MNERAL & 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!

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Please do not publish this list, Editor

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January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5	6
7 Lead Mountain F/T BOD & Show Meetings	8 General Meeting Quartzsite F/T	9 Quartzsite F/T	10 Quartzsite F/T	11 Quartzsite F/T	12 Quartzsite F/T	13 Quartzsite F/T
14 Quartzsite F/T	15 Quartzsite F/T	16 Quartzsite F/T	17 Quartzsite F/T	18 Quartzsite F/T	19 Diablo Diggins Articles Due Quartzsite F/T	20 Quartzsite F/T
21 Quartzsite F/T	22 Quartzsite F/T	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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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

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!