



Vol 62, No. 12



Diablo Diggins Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"



Concord, CA

December 2014

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor

Merry Christmas



Presidents Message



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From the beginning to the very last day, December is packed with celebrations and good will. Be sure to come to our Holiday Party, "Winter Wonderland" at our regular meeting time and place. The menu theme is "Americana", so bring a dish to share that means America to you. We traditionally think of the less fortunate at this time of year, and we collect canned foods for those in need. If you forget to bring canned food, cash or checks made out the Contra Costa Food Bank are always welcome. And if you're like me and LOVE getting presents, bring a wrapped, rock-related gift. It's okay to

label it man/woman or child if you wish.

As you're enjoying the party, take a moment to look around at the wonderful community our membership has become. Too many good clubs have vanished over the last few years, but we're going strong because of our people ... you. Thanks for all you do and have done to bring us into an exciting 2015!

This is my last message as president. Dave Kleesattel will be installed as your new President at our holiday party. I thank you all for the support you have given me, and ask that you share the same support with Dave.

Happy Holidays,

Donna Albrecht

CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Monday, December 8, 7:30 PM
Centre Concord

DECEMBER PROGRAM
Potluck Dinner
Bring a Dish to Share
Doors open 6:30
Eat at 7:00



December Program

Holiday Potluck and Awards Dinner

*The Holiday Meeting begins at 6:30 pm
– earlier than our regular meetings*

Don't miss the annual CCM&GS Holiday Potluck and Awards Dinner, Monday December 8 at the Centre Concord.

It is the big finale to another big year. And, it is the time our regular monthly meeting turns into a gala celebration of past achievements and future club possibilities with the installation of next year's officers.



Plus, as always, it is a time to enjoy a holiday dinner, the camaraderie of fellow members, and renew old relationships. Guests, friends and family are welcome.

As usual, the club is furnishing the main course – giant ham and big turkey – plates, plus utensils, beautiful centerpieces, music and entertainment. Entertainment is a surprise, but I'm thinking holiday carols sung by all. Bring a dish such as a side course, appetizer, salad, or desert, and you're good to go.

This year's theme is Traditional American Holiday. So bring a traditional American side dish – and dress American!

The lapidary and ornament gift exchange is always a big hit. Members who wish to participate, bring a gift that your fellow rockhouser would be happy to receive. The gift exchange is optional.

See you Monday, December 8, 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm

Happy Holidays
Harry Nichandros
Program Chairman

Board Meeting

December 3, 7:00 PM

New Articles for December *Diablo Diggins*

Due Date, December 15, 2014

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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

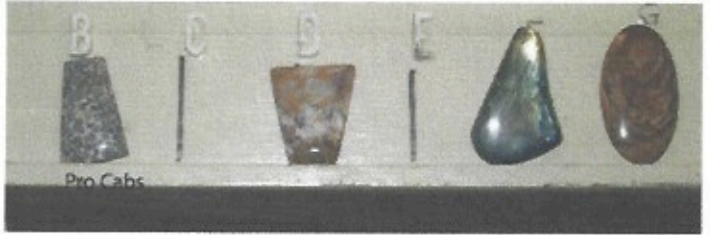
Pro Cabs - Four entries

B – Paul Black – Leopardskin Agate (winner)

D – Donna Albrecht – Floral Agate

F – Barrie Bieler – Labradorite

G – Mary Bufton – Picture Jasper

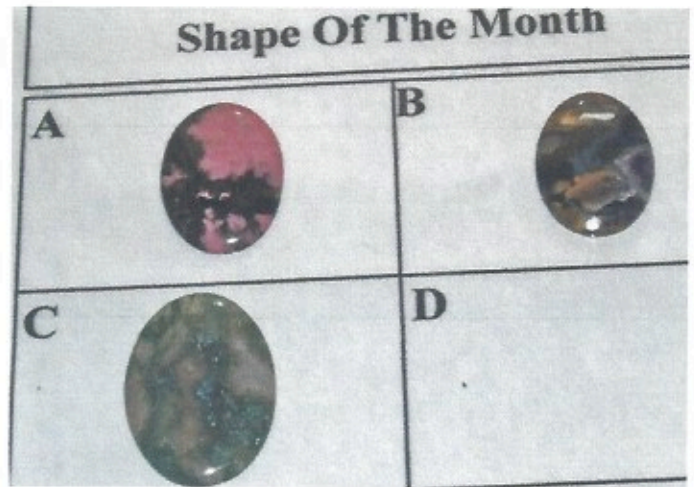


Shape of the Month – Ovals - Three entries

A – Mary Bufton – Rhodonite (winner)

B – Donna Albrecht – Agate

C – Paul Black – Horse Canyon Agate



Faceted Gems – One entry

II – Barrie Bieler – Green Cubic Zirconia (unchallenged)



Greg DeFabio displayed a large (50 pounds if it was an ounce) rough, green opalite.

2014 Shape of the Month Cabs

January – Irregular

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June - No competition (Auction night)

July - Freeform (No symmetry)

August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October - Rectangle (or Square)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Christmas party)





ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!

Fellow rock-hounds and mineral enthusiasts, here is wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! I hope everyone has collected lots of rocks and

will be gifting some to CCM&GS for next years' Silent Auction. Without your help next year we will have a very silent night.

December is a very short month for shows and field trips. The weather is colder so our traditional rock hunting spots are less hospitable (but not impossible.) Living, as we do, near the California coast, every storm becomes an opportunity for beach combing for newly washed up treasures. The possibilities abound. There is jade below Big Sur, Agates from Bolinas to Patricks' Point, and petrified whale bone at Capitola. You just need to plan to spend a day on the beach right after a really good storm. I am not planning any specific trips this month because, after all, good storms do not come to order, and besides, everyone is too busy getting ready for Christmas.

CCM&GS will be holding our annual Christmas pot luck on Monday, December 8th, so don't forget to bring your favorite "Americana" dish to share. For those so inclined, there is also a gift exchange.

SHOWS:

December 12 - 14: RIALTO, CA, Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
 Across Street from Rialto City Hall, 105 South Palm Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3 Contact: Ken Gard or Jessica, (909) 887-5507 -
 Shop (909) 381-0089, Email:
kengard@roadrunner.com
 Website: OBMSrocks.volasite.com

Wiley Well District Field Trip January 27 - 31, 2015

Hosted by Contra Costa M&GS

The Wiley Well District is southwest of Blythe and is one of the most popular collecting areas on the Colorado Desert. Although this has been a productive area for many years, it still offers an amazing variety of material. We will collect at several main sites; 1 or 2 sites each day. This is my eighth field trip to this interesting and productive area. Besides the more noted collecting areas we will be exploring new areas (at least new to me). This trip is open anyone that agrees to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rockhounding.

Directions to campgrounds: Exit Interstate 10 at Wiley Well Rd. which is approximately 10 miles west of Blythe and 31 miles east of Desert Center. Follow Wiley Well Rd. south for 12.5 miles to campsite on west side of road at the Riverside/Imperial Co. line. Watch for ORANGE PAPER PLATES to camp. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motorhomes and trailers to campgrounds. OK for high clearance vehicles to most collecting areas. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. This is the Mule Mtn. LTVA.

Collecting Trips: All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, **SHARP**, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

AM-- Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools -- shovels, picks, gads, etc.

PM-- Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

AM-- Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging tools -- shovels, picks, gads, etc.

PM-- Explore new site --The Big Windy for agate, geodes and nodules.

Thursday, Jan. 29



CFMS Fall Director's Meeting

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

In addition to all of the business, the activities and the energy of the CFMS Directors' Meeting, the weekend is the opportunity to see friends and colleagues again that you may see only once or twice a year at these meetings. The second weekend in November is our annual trek to Visalia for the CFMS Director's business meeting. The mid-year meeting is held as part of the annual Show and Convention. The fall meeting is devoted to the business of the Federation including adopting next year's budget, election of officers, committee reports and the like. And this year was no different. Some of what we do is a bit dry but it is important and necessary for a strong and affective Federation. In addition to the Directors' meeting I attended the Cracker Barrel, installation banquet and the ALAA meeting.

The Friday evening Cracker Barrel is an informal, fun get-together for socializing and sharing of ideas with other directors. Following the introductions of past CFMS and AFMS presidents, all military veterans were honored for their service. We had about 15 veterans in attendance. A fitting tribute because Veteran's Day was the following Tuesday. There was a discussion of ideas for advertizing and promoting club shows. Also discussed was the need for societies to host future CFMS Shows. We had a live auction of donated slab, rocks and jewelry for the benefit of the CFMS Endowment Fund.

The main purpose the banquet on Saturday evening was to install the 2015 officers. Jennifer Haley, the outgoing president, was recognized and thanked for her 5 years of service as an officer culminating in this year as president. Following the banquet Tom hosted a small party to celebrate the start of his presidency with everyone invited.

Saturday morning registration for the Directors' meeting started at 8:00. I go early to meet and greet old friend from around the state that I typically see only a few times a year. The meeting started at 9:00 and was over by about 1:00. I attended the ALAA meeting in the afternoon.

Directors' Meeting highlights:

- Ø The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge to the Flag. During the In Memoriam I announced the passing of Glenn McKenzie from CCM&GS. Each society is given an opportunity to give the names of departed members from their society.*
- Ø There was a very good turnout of directors. 58 directors representing approximately 110 societies; there were 5 officers and 24 committee chairs. When a society does not have a director present their society does not have a voice in the business of the Federation.*
- Ø For the first time in a long time there were no Delinquent Societies.*
- Ø The 2014 Show was hosted by the Pasadena Lapidary Society. The split of the profits were \$1000 for CFMS and \$10723 for PLS. This was a very good show and convention and it was very profitable.*
- Ø The 2015 show will be hosted by CFMS on June 12, 13 & 14 at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi. I have the Show packet with registration, competitive and non-competitive forms and information about the attractions around the area. Contact me for more information and copies of the forms. Betty and I are planning to attend and to exhibit. Attendance and exhibiting is open to all members. If you would like to attend or just want more information please contact me.*
- Ø The 2016 show will be in Placerville.*
- Ø The officers for 2015 were elected:
President - **Tom Burchard**, 1st VP - **John Martin**, 2nd VP -, **Margaret Kolaczyk**,
Treasurer - **Tony Fender** and Secretary -*



- Kim Campbell-Erb.** *Being an officer in the CFMS is typically a 5 year commitment of "going through the chair".*
- Ø *The 2015 Budget was approved with revenues of approximately \$107,500 and expenses of approximately \$104,550. There is a projected gain of \$2,950; this is the first budget in many years that doesn't have a projected loss.*
- Ø *There will not be an increase in dues or insurance for 2015. The dues are \$1.25 to the CFMS and \$.75 to the AFMS per member. The insurance is \$6.00. Total due to CFMS is \$8.00 per member which is the same for the last few years.*
- Ø *Earth Science Studies: The one week Camp Zzyzx is scheduled for March 29 to April 5. The cost will be \$390 for room, meals and most class supplies. If you use your own RV there is a \$50/person discount. See me for more information and application forms. The reservations for Zzyzx opened on November 1 and this session filled up in 2 days. There is a lot of interest in this great camp. Both sessions of the 2014 Camp Paradise were full.*
- Ø *Membership in the CFMS is declining, both societies and individuals. The Membership Committee passed out a survey to gather information on the stability and health of the member societies.*
- Ø *I turned in a **BIG** bundle of stamps to **Debbie Bunn** who collects them for the Easter Seals Society in the name of CFMS. Thanks to all of you that saved and gave me stamps over the past year. Saving stamps has been an ongoing project of the Federation, which is a moneymaker for the Easter Seal Society. It is easy to help;*
- just cut any and all stamps from you mail, put them in an envelope or zip lock bag and give them to me.*
- Ø *Only two honorees were nominated this year to present a \$2000 CFMS Scholarship to an undergraduate student so the CFMS will award only one scholarship this year. The CFMS Scholarship fund has over \$84,000 available for scholarships but can not be awarded unless a local society (our society) nominates an honoree to help select and present a scholarship to an undergraduate student. CCM&GS can nominate an honoree. There are sufficient funds for scholarships but they can only be given out by an honoree nominated by a CFMS society. The CCM&GS may nominate an honoree to recognize the service of one of our members to education.*
- Ø *AFMS Scholarship: Norvie Enns from Reno was named as the CFMS Honoree. Norvie will pick out a school and assist in the selection of 2 Ph.D. Candidates to each receive a \$4000 scholarship.*
- Ø *A number of pages of the CFMS web site are for "Members Only" and require a pass word to gain access. The member's only pages include the By-laws, Operating Regulations, Officers Manual, and more to come. Check out the CFMS Web site at www.cfmsinc.org for a lot of interesting information including the CFMS Newsletter, announcements about field trip, ESS camps and a lot more. If you are interested in viewing the "Members Only pages contact me for the password.*
- Ø *The Safety Committee is beginning work on a Safety Manual. The chairman is looking for interested people from all societies to participate in this project. Do*



you have expertise or experience with manuals/safety and would like to help with this important project, please see me.

Ø The following forms were passed out for CCM&GS to complete and return: Ad Hoc Electronic Communications, Officer Change Form, Dues and Insurance form, Order sheet for Bars and Triangles (service awards) Video Programs Order Form, and Show Dates Form. I will pass these out at the Board meeting in December.

If you want to know more about the CFMS and this recent directors meeting I have the complete meeting packet that has the agenda, minutes of the November 2014 meeting, committee reports, Treasurer's report and other Federation business. I will have it available at the next few Board meetings and general membership meetings or give me a call.

Membership Report

Dues are Due

Yes, CCM&GS membership dues are due for the 2015 membership year. Please see me at the Club Show's Membership Table or at the next CCM&GS General Meeting. Thank you to everyone that has already paid in advance and started the 'buzz' at the membership table!

Date Change

Next Show in August!

Our next Show will be in AUGUST, August 29-30, 2015! Mark your calendars.

The City of Concord is making major renovations to the Centre Concord Ballroom September through December 2015. Our 2015 Concord Gem Show will continue at the Centre Concord, but will be rescheduled for August 29-30, with setup on Friday the 28th.

In 2016 and after, the Show will return to its regular schedule of the first full weekend in November.

Show 2015 *Kick-off* will be at the May 11th general meeting. From May on, it's eat, sleep and drink show (sometimes more on the drink).

We will need your participation. Believe it or not, members have more satisfaction with their club, if they help with activities such as the show. If you want to participate, contact me.

We have activities for people of all skills. This year Danny Swicegood came up to me unexpectedly and asked what can I do. Do you need pictures? Yes! And he photographed an extensive record of the show.

You can do it too. Contact me with what you can offer.

Harry Nichandros
Show Chairman



A FEW PICTURES FROM THE 2014 SHOW

