



Vol. 64, No. 3

# Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

“We Dig Rocks”

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor



Concord, CA

March 2016



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well another month has slipped by very quickly. I've been in Alaska enjoying what the locals there consider a very bad winter... no snow. Personally, I consider that a great winter without any snow. However, it's only early March, there can still be heavy Spring snow there. The Kenai River never froze over this year which is a very rare thing.

Time to start planning Spring and Summer rockhounding trips. I hope everybody gets to their favorite collecting spots. I think I'm going to try some agate collecting along the shores of the Cook Inlet while I'm in Alaska. Last year I noticed some nice beach agates that might tumble well. I'll just have to keep an eye open for Brown Bear hunting the same stretch of beach for fish.

Hope to see everybody at the March meeting.

Dave Kleesattel

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, March 14, 7:30 PM**

**Centre Concord**

### MARCH PROGRAM

**Searles Lake “Gem-O-Rama”**

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CCM&GS Program for March 14, 2016

## Searles Lake "Gem-O-Rama"

Truly a one of a kind experience

Once a year, collectors gain access to the unique and unusual minerals that form in Searles Lake, California. This is the only collecting opportunity at this locality and hundreds of rockhounds from far and wide show up to take part. But where's the lake? Under the ground. The Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society creates three opportunities to access these evapotite minerals - affectionately titled Ponds, Mud, and Blowhole.

Barb Matz will present her latest pilgrimage to Searles Lake – discussing the geology, minerals, & fun to be had by all. Lot of specimens will be on display.



Photos, clockwise from top:  
Ponds, Mud, Blowhole

Dennis Freiburger, Program Chairman

### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday March 9, at 7:00 PM**

**New Articles for April *Diablo Diggins***

**Due Date, March 21, 2016**

## CCM&GS BOD Meeting

February 2, 2016, BOD meeting at Dave Kleesattel's office in Concord, 7:00 pm, 2520 Stanwell Drive, Suite 105 Conference Room. Next BOD meeting is on March 9, Wednesday. Dave is changing the day of the week as some members can not all make some days. Present: Dave Kleesattel, Mary Hicks, Paul Black, Bonnie Eichler, Mary Hanjes, Terry Caskey. No quorum, 7 are needed. January BOD minutes were not approved-pending. No bills were turned in. The December 31<sup>st</sup> BofA statement was received and the balance of the checking account and the CD was given.

Policy for important dates to ensure compliance and that correct and complete information is provided on current forms was discussed and the Secretary continues to work on the Business Continuity Plan. The raffle report was returned by the Justice Dept with a transmittal letter. Others-an out of date form was used, some information was incomplete, and directions regarding filling out the form were not exactly followed. The Secretary prepared a corrected and completed report on the required forms, the president signed the report, and it was sent back within the agency's required response period. Regulatory care has not been managed; last year while preparing to do the 2014 electronic filing, it was discovered by going to the IRS Website that this was not done in 2013. The Secretary did the 2014 and the 2013 filing to become current. The need to have the President review all compliance related reports and to have them handled by the Secretary with retained copies in the binder was discussed. A timeline of due dates is also assigned to the Secretary.

Paul Black is working on the club's Rock Hound of the Year submission. It is due well before the end of this current year to allow processing and receipt of the award for announcement and presentation. Education Chair Bonnie Eichler passed around the draft application for member partial scholarship award to the Mt. Diablo Adult Jewelry class. The form was very good, minor additions were discussed and Bonnie issued the corrected copy that night.

Secretary is to make copies and bring them to the Monday meeting.

Discussion of the Program planning by Dennis Freiburger occurred. Dave Kleesattel is doing the next presentation. It will be on Inclusions. Dennis has bookings and is supportive for the club auction. Also the consensus is that the auction could be September or if possible in October. Dave will follow-up with Dennis. Mary Hicks discussed doing fun small monthly raffles. We have the permit and everyone thought it would be ok to do one this coming meeting. Mary will provide the materials and items. All money goes to the club's general fund and the prize will be awarded at the meeting.

News of the new Historian, Debbie Blevins, was made. Mary will call Hazel to let her know that she has done a great job being Historian and talk about getting the Historian records out of her home to Debbie's.

No reports on Website, broken jack getting repaired on the trailer open item, audit has not been scheduled and the budget needs to be approved. New item: January Rock Talk occurred and 6 members met at Mary Hicks' home. Vikki Hotopp, Naomi and Cheryl Morgan, Chuck Olson, Mary Hicks, and Louise Gilley. Pegmatites were discussed. A DVD program by a Geology Professor about what makes a gem bearing pegmatite so rare was viewed. Mary will announce another Rock Talk at the Monday meeting. mph

## General Meeting

Unfortunately, I was not able to stay for the meeting last Monday and have put together input from members about what happened.

The General Meeting began around 7:35 pm at Centre Concord, Concord, CA. The President Dave Kleesattel welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Dave brought the attendees a Safety Moment. He discussed Trip & Fall hazards. Betty Pankey collected for missing badges. The door prize drawing was held. We had 3 guests at the meeting. Betty Pankey donated a stained-glass Valentine Heart which Terry Caskey won. He held the heart to his chest and moved it in and out as if it was beating. Then he presented the stained-glass heart to his wife, Joanne Caskey.

Education opportunity was announced at the January General Meeting about how to have a member apply for a grant toward the Jewelry class at Mt. Diablo Adult Education in Pleasant Hill, CA. The application form was created by our Education Chair Bonnie Eichler at the approval of the BOD. Applications were handed out at this meeting. Responses are due by March 31.

Kelly Plumb, Field Trip Vice-President announced field trips and show. Refer to the monthly newsletter where all the details are put together by her and posted by Terry Caskey.

Dennis Freiburger, Vice President of Programs, said he had just flown in from Tucson. Member Naomi Morgan piped up and said-Boy I Bet Your Arms Are Tired. Dennis talked about his fun at Tucson. He then introduced the evening program, Inclusions in Minerals and Rocks by Dave Kleesattel. Dave's presentation was about agates and other rocks. He had a great power point presentation and examples on the front table. The Presentation was over around 8:30 pm, attendees enjoyed snacks and voted.

## Hospitality Report

At this point, there are no plans for a get-together that normally takes place in Spring or Summer. If anyone would like to be chairman of a planning committee, please contact Debbie Blevins, the former Hospitality Chairman. She can discuss with you budget and details that may help in the planning of this.

Also, if you are interested in becoming Hospitality Chairman, please talk to Dave K.

Thank you.

Debbie Blevins

**Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society**  
54th annual

## GEM & MINERAL SHOW



**\$1.00 off  
admission**



**March 26 & 27, 2016**  
Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM  
**Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds**

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$6.00**  
SENIORS (60+) \$5.00 CHILDREN (12 & under) FREE

MINERALS \* CRYSTALS \* GEMSTONES \* FOSSILS \* BEADS \* JEWELRY  
DEMONSTRATIONS \* EXHIBITS \* SILENT AUCTIONS \* RAFFLE  
YOUTH ACTIVITIES \* FOOD & DRINK \* GOLD PANNING

**www.rockrollers.com**

If you are interested in submitting an application for the Reimbursement Scholarship for the lost wax class be sure to get it submitted on time! You can either submit it to me (Bonnie) at the March General Meeting or mail it to the club's official post office so it arrives no later than March 31st. The recipient will be selected at the Board Meeting in April. The class begins Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 pm and has 10 sessions.

Bonnie, Education Chairperson

**Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Scholarship Application**  
**Mt Diablo Adult Education – Basic Jewelry Designed For The Hobbyist**  
**Spring Session: April 13, 2016 - June 15, 2016 (Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm)**  
**Pleasant Hill Education Center**

*\*Scholarship is for class tuition only. The student is responsible for the cost of any supplies used & will decide which type of metal they want to use. Information will be provided at class on where metal can be purchased.*

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission Deadline March 31, 2016.** Send applications to the board at P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522 or submit to the Education Chair in person at a general meeting. Unsigned applications will not be considered.

**Acknowledgment:**

If chosen for this scholarship I agree to do a short 5-10 minute presentation for the club during a general meeting within 2 months of the completion of the class sharing what I have learned at the class. I agree to a minimum attendance of 70%. Members may only be awarded this scholarship once. This scholarship is a reimbursement that will be paid at the conclusion of the class.

Signature of Acknowledgment

Date

Please write a paragraph telling us why you would like to be selected for the scholarship.

**Refreshments**

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

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

Thank you!

Mary Jernigan- Membership

**March Refreshment List**

- Cheri Elliott
- Mike Fedoroff
- Alan Felker
- Brenda Flowers
- Dennis Freiburger
- Suzanne Garrett
- Louise Gilley & Mark Blackman
- Jennifer Haley
- Mary Hanjes
- Cathy Hayes
- Donna Heath



**March Birthdays**

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

Thanks, Mary Jernigan



**Happy Birthday!!**

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Sharon Neuhauser | 3/2  |
| Donna Heath      | 3/10 |
| Matt Mathews     | 3/14 |
| Susan Dennis     | 3/25 |
| Bonnie Eichler   | 3/31 |



**March Anniversaries**

- |                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Joanne & Terry Caskey | 3/17 |
|-----------------------|------|

## 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** – One entry

**1 – Vikki Hotopp – Plume Agate (unchallenged)**

**Pro Cabs** - Five entries

A – Mary Bufton - Rhodonite

B – Barrie Bieler - Jasper

**C – Paul Black – Nipomo Agate (winner)**

D – Joe Yarbrough – Mary Ellen Jasper

E – Donna Albrecht – Black Butte Jasper

**Shape of the Month – Heart** Two entries

B – Mary Bufton – Turquoise

**H – Donna Albrecht – Orbicular Agate (winner)**

**Faceted Gems** – Two entries

**III – Terry Caskey – Rutilated Quartz (winner)**

V – Barrie Bieler - Amethyst

**2016 Shape of the Month Cabs**

January – Irregular

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)



Shape Of The Month	
	B 
	D
	F
	H 



## ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!



## Shows for March

By Kelly Plumb

**March 5 - 6: ARCADIA, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles Arboretum-Ayres Hall  
301 Baldwin Avenue  
Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily  
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 358-1624,  
Email: [joannaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joannaritchey@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

**March 5 - 6: VENTURA, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 West Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Show Chair, (805) 312-8467  
Email: [info@VGMS.org](mailto:info@VGMS.org)  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 11 - 13: VICTORVILLE, CA**

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Hwy 15/Stoddard Wells Rd. See club website for details  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Tele: V.V.G.M.C. (760) 243-2330  
Website: [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org)

**March 12 - 13: SAN MARINO, CA**

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
San Marino Masonic Center  
3130 Huntington Drive  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5  
Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239  
Email: [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org](http://www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org)

**March 12 - 13: SPRECKELS, CA,**

Spreckel's Veterans Hall  
5th & Llano Streets  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Karin Salomon,  
(831) 375-5233  
Email: [kcbakes27@yahoo.com](mailto:kcbakes27@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.salinasrockandgem.com](http://www.salinasrockandgem.com)

**March 12 - 13: TURLOCK, CA**

Mother Lode Mineral Society,  
Modesto  
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 North Broadway  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contacts: Bud & Terry Mc-Millin, (209) 524-3494  
Email: [Bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com](mailto:Bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com)  
Website: [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com) Show Page

**March 19 - 20: LEMOORE, CA**

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society  
Lemoore Trinity Hall  
470 Champion Street  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Christopher Wertinberger, (559) 309-3433

Email: [kim\\_morrell@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_morrell@hotmail.com)

**March 26 - 27: ANGELS CAMP, CA**

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Road  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Dave Muster  
Email: [mustersgems@yahoo.com](mailto:mustersgems@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**March 26- 27: ROSEVILLE, CA**

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society  
Placer County Fairgrounds  
800 All American Blvd (off Washington)  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114  
Email: [gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com) Show Page

**April 2 - 3: CHICO, CA**

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds  
2357 Fair Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Kevin Wright, (530) 534-8364  
Website: <http://pgmclub.wix.com/paradisegemandmineralclub>



# North Bay Field Trips

## NBFT Spring Meeting

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**Location: Antioch Lapidary Club club house**  
425 Fulton Shipyard Rd.  
Antioch, CA (zip code)

### Hosted by the Antioch Lapidary Club

**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  
Tour of Museum and shops following the meeting.

The Antioch Lapidary Club's Club House, Museum and Workshop are located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., in Antioch, CA. 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, 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.

It is important for the future of NBFT that each and every NBFT society attends and is represented at this meeting. This is our planning and scheduling meeting for 2016 NBFT field 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 this year.

**Directions:** Directions. Take Highway 4 to Antioch, get off on A Street and go north, towards the water. Turn right on E. 18<sup>th</sup> St., go approximately 3/4 mile, then turn left on Cavallo. Take Cavallo past Wilbur Ave.; you now are on Fulton Shipyard Rd. Follow the signs to the Rock Swap. Or, exit Hwy. 160 (near Antioch Bridge) to Wilbur Ave., West. Go west on Wilbur Ave. to Fulton Shipyard Rd. and turn right. Follow the signs.



## CFMS Position Statement on The New Southern California National Monuments

In light of recent developments the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has decided to refrain from sponsoring, leading or participating in any collecting fieldtrips into the stated below regions of Southern California until the final Management Plans are finalized, published and become effective.

Collecting of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils in the Southern California Deserts and National Forests was delivered a catastrophic disappointment this year with the creating of four new National Monuments by Executive Order. In 2015 the San Gabriel National Monument was created and closed several collecting areas which now lie within its boundaries. On February 12, 2016 President Obama created three new National Monuments in the deserts of Southern California. The Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument and the Castle Mountains National Monuments all were created by Executive Orders. Within these monuments lies some of the best Rockhound and collecting areas in California and to list just a few: The Cady Mountains, Lavic Siding, Afton Canyon, Oro Belle and Big Chief Mines and many abandoned mines in the Southeastern San Bernardino Mountains with mine shafts, prospecting pits, and tailing piles of interest to Rockhounds.

The following is quoted from the Presidential Proclamation of the Mojave Trails National Monument. (*It is included in each of the Presidential Proclamations.*)

*"All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument or disposal for the limited purpose of providing materials for repairing or maintaining roads and bridges within the monument consistent with care and management of the objects identified above."*

*"For purposes of the care and management ... the Secretary, through the BLM, shall within 3 years of the date of this proclamation prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument and shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, State, and local governments."*

***"Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof."***

## Owens Valley Field Trip: April 1-5, 2016

**Leader: Thaleia Georgiades** 530-957-3800 [Thaleia@directcon.net](mailto:Thaleia@directcon.net)

**Copper Related Minerals, Quartz & Other Crystals, GOLD, Amazonite, Blue Beryl, Garden rocks, and more!** *A mini-vacation!*

Mark your calendar for an exciting **Owens Valley Field Trip** on **April 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5!** We're off to **Big Pine, Independence, & Lone Pine, CA** for all sorts of gems & minerals. This trip requires 2 travel days (Mar. 31 & April 6), & 5 collection days (April 1- 5). You can come for all or part of the trip. Let me know your plans so we can meet up with you each day. There are so many sites that I had to select just a few! They are primarily digging sites but you can also surface collect.

**TOOLS:** pick, rock hammer, rake, shovel, gloves, goggles, knee/ground pad, garden claw, & similar. **IF YOU HAVE A METAL DETECTOR, BRING IT!** You can find artifacts & possibly gold nuggets! You'll need a hat, lots of water & ice! It gets hot out there & sun is very strong. I recommend an umbrella or portable sun shade. All of these sites are really multi-day trips so plan a full day at each one. I'll provide maps when we meet. See back for mineral list.

**High clearance 4WD vehicles needed in some areas, if you don't have one, try to hitch a ride.**

**DIRECTIONS:** Placerville to Lone Pine is about a 5 ½ hour drive. Hwy 50 east toward Tahoe, Turn right on Hwy89 at Meyers, to Hwy88 in Hope Valley, left on 88/89 down thru Woodfords, continue to Minden, NV, right on 395 south to Lone Pine. Gorgeous drive; bring your camera.

**LODGING:** I arranged for discount group lodging at **Best Western in Lone Pine. About \$100/night** includes tax & hot breakfast so you don't have to go anywhere else! Singles can share a room to save money. There are other motels, campgrounds & lots of primitive dry camping, etc. (See back)

**Portagee Joe's Campground** is recommended for camping, just off Whitney Portal Rd & Turtle Rd.

**Thursday, March 31st:** Drive to Lone Pine. Call me if you get to town in time & I'll meet you for at **Seasons** for dinner at 6:30PM. Bishop is your last best chance to get any supplies you need.

**Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:** **Crystal Ridge**- Meet at 8:00AM East corner of Aberdeen Station Rd, (North of Lone Pine & south of Tinemaha Reservoir). Caravan to **Crystal Ridge** for Smoky, Clear & Hematite (pink/purple) Quartz Crystals, Hematite, Limonite & snail fossils, north east of Independence. Walking, climbing, digging & ground scavenging a large area.

**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** **Green Monster Mine**- Meet at 8:00AM at corner of Manzanar Reward Road, South of Independence, North of Lone Pine. Caravan to an old copper mine for Copper related minerals (Malachite, Azurite, Varisite, Chrysocolla, copper & mores.

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>:** **Brown Monster & Reward Mines**- Meet 8:00AM at Manzanar Reward Road turn-off, north of Lone Pine & south of Tinemaha Reservoir. Caravan to abandoned series of mines with lots of ruins & a vast array of minerals. There's actually a huge adit (tunnel) that brave persons can drive through (at your own risk)! A very vast area & lots of tailings. Hiking & climbing. May need high clearance to drive to upper reaches, or walk.

**Monday AM, April 4<sup>th</sup>:** **The Haystack**- Meet at 8:00AM Lone Pine Narrow Gauge Road at. Caravan to 2 locations for Amazonite, Aquamarine, and Opalite outside of Lone Pine.

Two different locations in one area. (Amazonite & Blue Beryl. Best bet is to hike to the top of either, working your way up & down. Hiking & climbing; rock breaking & digging.

**Tuesday AM, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** **Alabama Hills**- Meet at 8:00AM west of Lone Pine, at corner of Whitney Portal Rd & Movie Rd. Caravan to private claims for **GOLD**. Metal detect, dig, or dry wash for gold nuggets & gold in quartz. The eagle-eyed may even spot small pieces on the ground!



## CFMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Louisa Carey, Chair

Recently someone asked how to know if someone in their club or community should be honored by nominating them to be part of the Scholarship family? The answer is there really isn't a list of what qualifies a person. There isn't a guideline I can send you to check the amount of awesome a person needs to be to make such a difference in the life of a student. An honoree gets to pick a school and be a part of the process for choosing a student to receive a \$2000 scholarship which is a huge deal.

So who is it going to be? It could be the person you see every time you go the clubhouse or field trip, inspiring the joy of the share or treasure hunt. The person who teaches the class, who always keeps the group going with snacks and drinks, the one who continues to educate themselves so they have more to offer the community, the guy or gal who holds an office on the board, keeps the club motivated to get new members so our beautiful hobby isn't lost to the next generation, or even the quiet one who sets up a case every year, plugs the local community with posters and flyers for upcoming shows, or someone who does it all.

Take a moment to think about the club or class you joined. Take a deep breath in the next moment... who stands out? Who comes to mind? THAT is the person you should nominate. Do the right thing by saying thank you and contact me with their 411 so we can honor them together.

Keep rocking,

## ROCKHOUND SOAPBOX

CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committee

By John Martin, Chair

This is just a reminder, because you have read this before. It is the beginning of a new year for the politicians, lobbyists, lawyers and special interest groups. They are hard at work doing their best to change the face of our landscape and our ability to pursue our interest in our own collecting of rocks, minerals and fossils from our Public Lands through legislation, regulation and proclamation.

Much of the public lands we use are being closed to motorized access to supposedly protect the environment and wildlife habitat that may or may not exist where collecting areas have been used for decades. Without motorized access to our collecting areas soon we will only be able to access them by foot or horseback. The decision makers keep closing access roads because they keep hearing from special interest groups who only seem to want the land to be gazed upon from a distance, a long distance. We, the Rockhounds, amateur collectors of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils must become engaged at the grass roots level and make our voices heard as loud as those of the other special interest groups. We must become one of the Special Interest Groups speaking up to protect our interest in the management of our public lands for now and our future generations to use and enjoy. When an alert is received, whether through CFMS, ALAA, national or local news outlets, Blogs or any means, take the time to read and understand what is being planned for your collecting areas. If you do not speak up and make your voice heard, we will lose our ability to pursue our American Right to access and use of our public lands as Rockhounds within the guidelines that have been established for the collecting of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils and the AFMS Code of Ethics and AFMS Land Use Policy Statement. As always if you need more information on an issue the CFMS Website can supply you with contact information or contact the CFMS - PLAC members at [plac@antelecom.net](mailto:plac@antelecom.net) and we will attempt to find answers to your concerns or provide guidance in contacting the responsible legislator or Land Manager.

Happy Rockhounding and Enjoy Your Public Lands

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

P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord,  
(Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles northwest on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road) Cross street  
Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Valley Bowl, free parking

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Junior \$1  
VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

**Board and Committee Members 2016**

Please do not publish this list, Editor

President

**Dave Kleesattel**

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**Dennis Freiburger**

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2nd Vice president, Field Trips

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**March 2016**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Board Meeting	10	11	12
13	14 General Meeting	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21 Articles Due	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Easter Sunday

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

**First Class**

Member of American and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**Diablo Diggins**

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

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

Editor- Terry Caskey

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

Members meet the second Monday of each month (third Monday in June) at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Ca 94521 (Clayton Faire Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Rd and Balham Dr, next to Clayton Valley Bowl).

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!