



Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

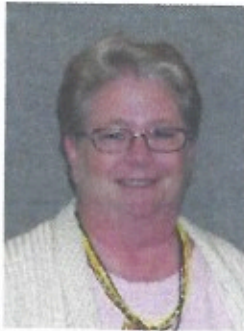
"We Dig Rocks"

Concord, CA
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you for another wonderful year. As I anticipate this being my final year as President I am excited about the potential of our Society in the coming year. It has been an incredibly busy, happy, and healthy year. I hope the New Year brings joy and great health to all of you. We hope that 2013 brings more wonderful classes, great field trips, over the top programs, and of course our great show.

If you want to teach a class, give a presentation to our membership, or lead a field trip let Donna, Harry, or Kelly know about your interest. They would love your help.

I would like to offer a special thank you to Pam Harris and her committee for the wonderful holiday party. It was a lot of work but she and her team did a great job! I heard lots of compliments about what a fun evening it was. Thank you Pam and crew. At the holiday party we recognized Ophelia Hicks and Matt Matthews with honorary membership for their contributions to our Society for the many, many years they have spent rock hounding and promoting our hobby. We awarded the Education Through Sharing award to Dave Kleesattle for his continuing contributions to the Society and spreading his love and knowledge of rocks.

We do have a few committee opportunities. The most important right now is host/hostess. That means greeting visitors and members as they come to the general monthly meetings, announcing guests, and presenting the door prizes each month. And, as you desire, arranging social gatherings outside of the meetings. It's a great way to get involved and meet more of the members.

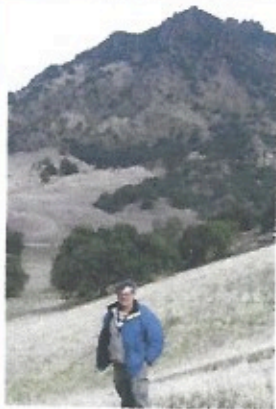
Also, we are looking for a property chairperson as well. Howard Shamy has done an incredible job and his shoes are big ones to fill. And as you may know, Howard has retired and is moving out of the area. Please let me know if you, or anyone you know, may be interested in these positions. I welcome your thoughts and participation. Your new ideas and perspectives bring energy to our club. Please, share your ideas with me as we move into the future.

Happy New Year,
Therese Clark
President

Next General Meeting
Monday, January 14 7:30 PM

JANUARY PROGRAM
California Gold

**January Program
California's Gold**



Speaker Bill Motzer at the Sutter Buttes, California. Photo: Bill Motzer

In 1848 James Marshall was building a sawmill for John Sutter in Coloma, California. On January 24 he was camped on the American River when he discovered several gold nuggets in the river's gravel. In December, President Polk announced the discovery to congress. The rest is history, as they say. Thousands of itinerant miners descended on the western Sierra. The Great California Gold Rush was under way.

The original *Forty-Niners* searched for surface placer deposits. Then they followed the placers back to the Mother Lode where underground mining began. This was followed by hydraulic mining, dredging, and open pit mining.

Today, except for hobbyists seeking surface placer deposits as the original *Forty-Niners*, gold prospecting is quite different. Today's techniques involve historical accounts, research, geology and geochemistry. More

expertise is brought to the table with modern methods of isotopic fingerprinting and age dating.

January speaker Dr. Bill Motzer will describe ways modern miners use these techniques to locate gold and other precious metals. According to Dr Motzer, these ideas are relevant to rockhounding, and in fact, rockhounds have long understood some of these principles as they follow geologic evidence to locate formations of agates and semi-precious stones.

Dr Motzer has 37 years of experience as a professional geologist and 15 years experience as a minerals and mining exploration geologist specializing in precious metal deposits. He is often retained as an expert witness in mine litigation issues and has contributed to several books and is the author of numerous publications. Join us Monday, January 14 for Bill Motzer's presentation *California's Gold: History, Geology, and Geochemistry*. Find your gold – the modern way.

Harry Nichandros
Program Chairman



The Ironstone Crown Jewel gold nugget found in Jamestown, California on Christmas Day, 1992. At 44 pounds, this crystalline gold specimen is the world's largest. Photo: wikipedia.org (Creative Commons license).

New Articles for February *Diablo Diggins*

Due Date January 21, 2012

Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 9 6:30 pm

January Program.....	2
Meeting Minutes.....	3,4,5
Caring and Sharing Food Drive.....	3
Competitions.....	N/A
Membership.....	6
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	8
Bead In.....	8
Field Trips.....	9
Various Shows 2012.....	9
Ann Matthews Rembers.....	10

Federation Director- Dick Pankey told the BOD that CFMS has asked clubs to check their Articles of Incorporation filed with IRS as 'Educational'. CFMS is reviewing their forms for new member, change in officer, dues & insurance. Mary Hicks files dues & insurance in behalf of CCM&GS. CFMS is looking into the possibility of changing insurance carriers. CFMS should be sending CCM&GS a 50 year membership certificate, CCM&GS joined CFMS in 1954.

Secretary- Mary Jernigan, distributed mail for additional membership renewals. Renewal for the Club postal box was due and would be paid for the 2013 year

Historian- Hazel Woolsey - no updates

Librarian- Connie Klein - no updates

Display- Paul Black - no display news until January

Property- Howard Shamy told the BOD that one broken display case front was to be repaired. Howard informed the BOD that he was moving to Pioneer and would no longer be continuing as Property Chairman. He would make arrangements to move the club trailer and items prior to his departure. Thank you, Howard. You are greatly appreciated and will be sincerely missed by the CCM&GS.

Show- Harry Nichandros did not have the financial information from the Club Show yet. Requests for checks were still being submitted. Contracts for the Centre Concord were pending. Everyone is talking about how great the Show was.

The BOD had discussion regarding upcoming Club Shows. Dick Pankey reminded the BOD that vendors should be required to provide full payment with their signed contracts to avoid bounced checks or unpaid vendor tables. It was agreed that CCM&GS will be supporting more youth activities at the Club Show. Badge work for Scouting programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pathfinders would be considered. Mary Hanjes and Mary Jernigan will be teaming together in this effort with the assistance of Dave Kleesattel. Dick recommended scheduling a February Show Planning meeting so that more CCM&GS members could get involved with the actual planning of the Club Show and to utilize more volunteers. Harry will advise everyone of a possible meeting date.

President- Therese Clark was notified that Glen Hubbard's son Richard had passed away. A sympathy card would be available for members to sign.

Publicity- Therese Clark-newsletters have been mailed. Harry said the Show Express news was emailed in advance of the November newsletter. Mary Jernigan suggested sending future Show Express separately by email to promote Show News and focus attention on upcoming Show details.

Membership - Mary Hicks informed the BOD that we currently had 147 members as of December. Mary had received seven new membership applications, most of the applicants had attended a CCM&GS meeting. Membership applications were received for Sonya Carpenter, Suzanne Garrett, Don & Margaret Henrich, Charles 'Bruce' Newton, Jr. (former member), Yonna Richardson and Louis Venable. Mary recommended that we accepted these applicants. Therese moved to accept. Howard seconded. A vote was taken and approved. Welcome new CCM&GS members!

Education- Donna Albrecht noted that classes will be listed in the Diggins' Newsletter.

Newsletter Editor- Articles to Terry by December 17th

New Business- Dick Pankey, Member Memorandum would need to be setup for our beloved members Don Tompkins and Doug Ellis.

Next BOD meeting- January 9th

Next General meeting- January 14th

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Mary Jernigan- CCM&GS Secretary

CCM&GS General Meeting - Holiday Dinner December 10, 2012.

President- Therese Clark opened the General Meeting- Holiday Dinner at 7:02pm welcoming Club members and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jr. Member, Taylor Thompson.

Donations for the Contra Costa Food Bank were collected at the front door. Thank you, Mary & Mark Bufton for coordinating the food collection from our CCM&GS members.

Hospitality- Pam Harris welcomed guests and new CCM&GS members. Pam and Therese gave instructions for the dinner line and called up the table groups for the Italian Holiday Dinner. Everyone shared the many delicious potluck dishes.

President- Therese Clark thanked Pam and the Holiday Decorating Committee. Pam thanked the committee for creating the holiday atmosphere including special wine bottle centerpieces. Pam thanked Dave Kleesattel for providing the member door prize, a beautiful fluorite bowl.

Diggins' Newsletter articles to Terry by December 17th

Next Board of Directors Meeting- January 9th, Next General Meeting- January 14th

Membership- Mary Hicks presented her mother, Ophelia Hicks, with the Honorary Membership Award for her many years of service to the CCM&GS. Through the years, Ophelia has served on several positions for the Board of Directors and different committees. "In the beginning of her rock collecting days, Mom used to put all the blue rocks together, but not any more!"

1st Vice President- Harry Nichandros presented Matt Matthews with the Honorary Membership Award for his many years of service to the CCM&GS. Matt has also served on various positions for the BOD. If there was a fieldtrip, Matt was definitely part of the adventure. A few years back, Matt partnered with Sam Woolsey to build our amazing show display cases.

President- Therese Clark presented Dave Kleesattel with the CFMS Award Education Through Sharing. Dave was nominated by the CCM&GS for his ongoing dedication to educating others in the field of geology. Dave, our Geology Guru, has served several positions on the Board of Directors and continues to teach classes for the CCM&GS membership.

Hospitality- Pam Harris called out the winning door prize number and gift exchange tickets. Gift exchange items were rock hobby related gifts. Junior CCM&GS members were called to the stage to receive a special gift.

President- Therese Clark asked the BOD to join her at the stage and thanked the BOD and Committee members for their service. Therese announced that Howard Shamy, Property Chairman, was moving to Pioneer and would be greatly missed.

Jennifer Haley, CCM&GS Member and CFMS 2013 1st Vice President, announced the installation of the CCM&GS 2013 Officers for Board of Directors.

President- Therese Clark, 1st Vice President- Harry Nichandros, 2nd Vice President- Kelly Plumb,
Secretary- Mary Jernigan, Treasurer- Mary Hanjes, Federation Director- Dick Pankey

President- Therese Clark asked the Committee members to join the BOD on stage.

Membership- Mary Hicks, Historian- Hazel Woolsey, Editor- Terry Caskey, Education- Donna Albrecht, Librarian- Connie Klein, Display- Paul Black, Property- Howard Shamy, Hospitality- Pam Harris, Refreshments- Debbie Blevins, Sgt of Arms- John Wright

Pam Harris had members 'count off' to win the table centerpieces. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Meeting & Dinner adjourned at 9:00 pm. Mary Jernigan – CCM&GS Secretary



OPHELIA HICKS

I got to announce my Mom the Rockhound, Ophelia Hicks, for Honorary Member award at the December Holiday Party. Both my parents (William Marlow Hicks aka Hawkeye) became CCM&GS members in the early 70's. I remember they purchased a rock collection in the 60's and the collection got sorted by color. Yes, the serpentine, jade, malachite, mariposite all looked alike to our inexperienced eyes. That was many field trips ago. Ophelia loved to carve soapstone and gave many classes on this subject. She had articles on soapstone carving and field trips published in Rock & Gem Magazine. More recently, she has taught bead knotting so members can create their own lovely necklaces. And because we are an organization of volunteers, she volunteered as

Secretary, worked as a demonstrator at shows, made egg salad for the show sandwich effort, helped my dad with the library and leading field trips. It was my honor to present to Ophelia Hicks the Honorary Member Award.

MATT MATTHEWS



President Therese Clark announced that Matt Matthews is a recipient of the Honorary Member Award. Matt has been a member of the club for 42 years. During that time he has always joined in and contributed to make the club a success. He held several offices, works tirelessly for the show and prepares exhibitor cases awards each year. He worked with Sam Woolsey in the big job of making all new show cases. Matt has always helped to tell people about rockhound locations. He was the official meat cutter for the show tasty meat sandwiches wearing out 2 slicing machines. Matt also has taught classes and worked with youth groups sharing his love of rocks.

Education Thru Sharing Honoree

DAVE KLEESATTEL

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society nominates Dave Kleesattel as our Education

Thru Sharing honoree. Dave has been an active and influential member of our club for many years. Dave has served on our Board as President and Secretary. He's taught many classes about rocks, minerals, fossils, and fossil preparation (Green River Formation). Recently, Dave guided us through the very long process of updating our club by-laws. Since his time on the Board he has continued to serve as an ex officio parliamentarian, available to answer by-law questions and mediate any conflicts. As a professional geologist, he is our go to person for any questions that come up whether at our general meetings, or at our annual show each November. Several years ago he said to me, "I've been picking up rocks since I've had pockets." He loves to share his passion with anyone and always encourages his passion for our hobby. It's an honor to nominate Dave Kleesattel.



Thank You to Member and Property Chair Howard Shamy



At the December meeting, President Therese thanked Howard Shamy for all he has done to support her and the club. Howard Shamy received a big applause in recognition of all he has done as Property Chair. The club equipment and show cases have been repaired and kept securely stored. The club trailer which acts as a mobile storage and delivery system for the income making show, has been repaired, sanded, coated, ventilated by Howard's efforts. Howard has moved the trailer to the show and back, to coating facilities, unloaded and reloaded for better placement of items. Often times, Howard acted alone to get these tasks done. Now we have learned that as of December 31st of this year he will not be able to continue as Property Chair as he and his wife are moving out of the area. We will miss our fellow member Howard and thank him for all he has done for the club over the years.

Welcome to New Members

I am pleased to announce the following new members: Sonja Carpenter, Suzanne Garrett, Don & Margaret Henrich, Charles (Bruce) Newton Jr., Yonna Richardson, Louis Venable. I have two applications out for return. Help welcome new members by saying hi at the meetings. We all have an interest in the hobby, share your enthusiasm! Remember, we are an organization of volunteers. Volunteer to make a new rockhound acquaintance at the next meeting.

2013 Dues are now Past Due

Please send your dues to:
Mary Hicks, Membership
PO BOX 2064, Antioch, CA 94531
\$10 per adult member, \$1 per junior member.



Installation of officers for 2013

From left, Dick Pankey(Federation Director), Mary Jernigan(Secretary), Mary Hanjes(Treasurer), Harry Nichandros(Programs), Kelly Plumb(Field Trips), Therese Clark(President), Jennifer Haley(CFMS Vice President)

ROCK HOUNDS ON A ROLL!



Kelly Plumb

It's a brand New Year! That means a whole new round of exciting shows and field trips. As I am writing this I am planning to attend the Rock Hound Field Trip Fanatics "Last Blast" field trip on Sunday

December 30th so there should be interesting new material to show off at the upcoming January meeting. The location will be area 54 in West Fresno County and the chialtolite diggings east of Chowchilla in Madera County. Materials

include jasper, agate, jade, chocolate magnesite and "blue G". Call or email me for details if you are interested in going. Maybe we can caravan down. If the location is good CCM&GS may be making their own field trip there this year. The "Rock Hound Field Trip Fanatics" web site is one you might want to visit and join at <http://rockhound-field-trips.ning.com>.

I have yet to set specific dates, but due to the enthusiasm expressed so far I plan to lead field trips back to Capitola for fossil shells and whale bone (dependent on tides) and to the mariposite claim once I get in contact with the owners. I am also planning to do the trip to Woodward Ranch in Alpine Texas that I had to cancel last year. The date is tentatively set for April 13th-26th. This one is actually my vacation, but if some of the rest of you want to travel that far, I'm all for the more the merrier.

Meanwhile there are plenty of shows to attend! Here are some of the ones coming up next month (sorry, so far nothing for January.)

February 16- 17: ANTIOCH, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds

1201 West 10th street, Antioch, CA 94509 Hours: 10-5

Saturday and Sunday

Contact: Brenda Miguel (925)301-6957

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

46-530 Arabia Street Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email:

bert67@verizon.net

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Newark Pavilion

6430 Thornton Avenue, Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 305-4196 Email:

Cdmiller59@gmail.com Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 3: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725

Email: abaris2007@gmail.com Website:

www.vgms.org

March 9 - 10: 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:

joenmarl@verizon.net

March 9 - 10: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club, Spreckels Veteran's Hall

5th & Llano Streets Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233

Email: kcbakes27@yahoo.com Website:

www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 9 - 10: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds

900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494

Email: terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com

Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 16 - 17: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society, Solano County Fairgrounds

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816, cell (707)

334-2950 Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

March 16 - 17: VISTA, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

2040 North Santa Fe Avenue, Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

Contact: Diane Hall, (760) 741-0433, cell (760)

213-1377

Email: dhall13@cox.net Website:

www.palomargem.org

March 23 - 24: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Calaveras County Fairgrounds

101 Frogtown Road Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277

Email: amy95247@yahoo.com Website:

www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 23 - 24: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers, Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds

800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Gloria Marie, (530) 367-2262

Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com

Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 23 - 24: TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Ken Miller Recreation Center

3341 Torrance Blvd. Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Bill Sudduth, (310) 787-7851

Email: Sudduth3@msn.com Website:

www.palosverdes.com/sblap