



Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"



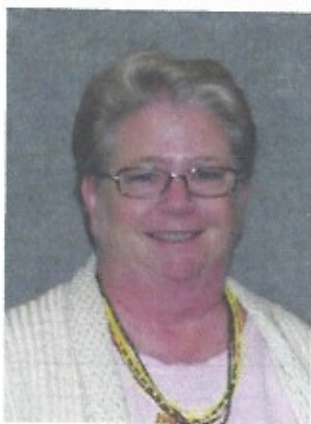
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This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor

Concord, CA

November 2013

Presidents Message



It's show time!!!

As you read this, the show is just a day or two or perhaps just a few hours away. Lots of hard work has been done and now with your hard work on Friday the 1st of November we will be ready to go.

The show is a work in progress and this is where you can help. Mary Hicks will be calling if you haven't signed up already to participate. Each year we have about 90% show participation. We hope you will be part of it this year, too.

When Mary calls, think about what you can do to help. Every member is needed! Can you tape wires to the floor, skirt a table, man the membership table? These are all good choices. Pick a task and help your club. Everyone is needed.

It is a wonderful time to celebrate our hobby and share it with the public. Here's to a great show.

Therese Clark
President

November Program

Rhodochrosite: Red Treasure of
the Rockies

Next General Meeting

Monday, November 11, 7:30 PM

Show time

Nov. 2, 3



October 2013

Show Express...



What's Happening at the Concord Gem Show

Show Express... is published monthly July through December to keep club members informed of their upcoming Gem & Mineral Show in November. Articles to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Show Chairman, Harry Nichandros at 674-7055, [nichandros\[at\]juno.com](mailto:nichandros[at]juno.com)

November 1-3

Work The Show – For the Club

Haven't signed up to work at the show, yet? Do so this month.

Each year CCM&GS asks for your help with our annual Gem & Mineral Show in November. It takes hundreds of people working hundreds of hours. We appreciate your help, *and we need it.*

All members are expected to participate. The show is what makes our club one of the best, and it's the source of most of our revenue.

Our critical need for support is Friday morning, November 1. That's when we are under the gun to transform a barren hall, in five hours, into a brilliant showroom.

It's Friday, so many of the younger folks are working. But don't leave the job to the old timers. If you can take some time off early Friday morning, you will be able to make a great contribution. Early? Yes early, what we get done from 7-10 am sets the tone for the entire show.

Please give a bit of your time, effort, and support your club – and have a blast while you do it. Call me at 674-7055.

Harry Nichandros
Show Chairman

Join Our Fluorescent Display



This year, the club will sponsor a fluorescent display case of members' rocks, minerals and fossils at the show. Club members are invited to display a few of their nicest rocks in a special display case designed with long and short ultraviolet lighting (UV-a & UV-c).

We will consider anything you think would be useful, interesting, or novel – as long as it lights up in the dark. (Well, almost anything. Live scorpions are out for this year).

Bring your rocks to the next general meeting with a tag with your name and a description including whatever you know of the rock, eg fluorescing minerals and location found. We will return them to you at the November meeting.

If you are interested in donating rocks or helping layout the display, contact Harry or Connie Klein.

Membership Report

Dues are DUE starting in October and are past due after December 31st. You can pay by check at the show at the Membership table which will be with the Raffle table.

Raffle and Show Update. Volunteering to work at the annual education show is part of expectations for our members. This activity supports our interests and introduces the public to the wonders of our far reaching hobby. I will be calling members to help fill the jobs still needing to be filled for the show.

Donate a nice item to the Raffle. I have received donations but need more. Call me or email me at maryhicks@comcast.net to arrange a donation. I make up signs and ticket bags for each item so do not wait until the last minute to contact me for the show. Items should be nice mineral specimens, lapidary work, and include a note that describes your item with your name. A gift box completes the package for jewelry items.

Refreshment and Snacks for the General Meeting

Thank you to the members who each month bring snacks for the General Meeting.

Mary Hicks
Membership



CCMGS decorations committee preparing decorations for the holiday party

ROCKHOUDS ON A ROLL!



I have always thought that rockhounds are special people. As a group, rockhounds are some of the nicest people you could ever want to meet. On this month's field trip to Fallon Nevada I had proof, once again of how wonderful rockhounds can be.

The trip definitely started with a full moon. Most of you know that I foster kittens for Contra Costa Animal Services. Thursday my current batch was due to go back to start the process

of finding forever homes. Instead, one of them got sick, needed medication that could not be skipped, and none of my usual cat sitters could handle it. That left trying to keep her in Alan's basement, meds on Friday morning before a mad dash to meet everyone in Fallon an hour away and running back to Reno Saturday night for more meds and a Sunday morning planned mad dash back to Fallon instead of the quiet night in the motel between expeditions. I made it to Fallon on Friday with minutes to spare and most of the group already assembled. There was a good turnout since this was a joint field trip with the Antioch Lapidary Club. My Prius does not have good ground clearance, so by arrangement I carpooled with Cheri Elliott who was the trip leader for the Antioch club.

Everyone caravanned another half hour east toward Rawhide Nevada. At the first location we collected some small agate nodules which ranged from clear to gray blue with calcite and/or gypsum inclusions to the same with mild banding. At the second location there was more of the same, but bigger pieces and some jasper in reds and yellows with a few greens, including some nice swirly patterns.

After a fun day of hunting agate and jasper our tired group headed back to the Motel and dinner. It was time for me to check in to my Motel room. As I went to open my car and get my suitcase I realized that I did not have my keys. It was a big batch with two cars, house, my daughters' house and other keys as well. Since they were on my belt loop when we started collecting, that meant they were lost in the desert. Have you ever set down your rock collecting bag and walked to the other side of a sage brush to pick up a rock? Walk too far and it is hard to find that bag of rocks, much less a set of keys when you are not even sure which location they were dropped at. Worse, the group planned to go to the Wonderstone deposit the next day. I had covered a LOT of area at both locations and I was dependent on Cheri to get me too and from any locations.

We tried the local dealership who did not have a key to program for me and wasn't sure they could if they did have one. The rental car company was closed for the weekend. If I had triple-A come and open my car I could not relock it without the keys. I had no transportation, I had to leave my car behind, no change of clothes and no medications! The moon was definitely full!

Then the clubs came through in true rockhound style! At dinner Cheri announced that they had put their heads together and decided to go back to the two locations. With the exception of Charles Jorgensen and Cyndi Moscovitz, who had to leave early and Brenda Miguel and Charlie Taylor who had over exerted himself the previous day, the whole group would search for my keys!

We started at the first location. After checking my boot print it was decided to try to find and follow my tracks from the previous day. Thirteen rockhounds spread out. Joint club members Cheri Elliot, Gary Casillas, and Donna Heath, CCM&GS club member Chuck Olson, Larry and Debbie Blevins, Antioch Lapidary Club members Dave Tyre, Steve Leidental, Edy and Andy Snyder and their two guests Hanes and Jennifer Ely who were not even with us the previous day all pitched in. After covering just about the whole area I had been in at the first location we were ready to move on when I decided to go up just one more hill. Right then Gary called out that he had found the hole he was digging in just before we left and my foot prints were coming toward it. I headed toward him and there they were! My Keys! I did a great big Happy Dance and thanked my luck stars for my fellow rock hounds.

UP-COMING SHOWS:

November 2 - 3: CONCORD, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5294 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily, Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454
Email: show-c@ccmgs.org Website: www.ccmgs.org

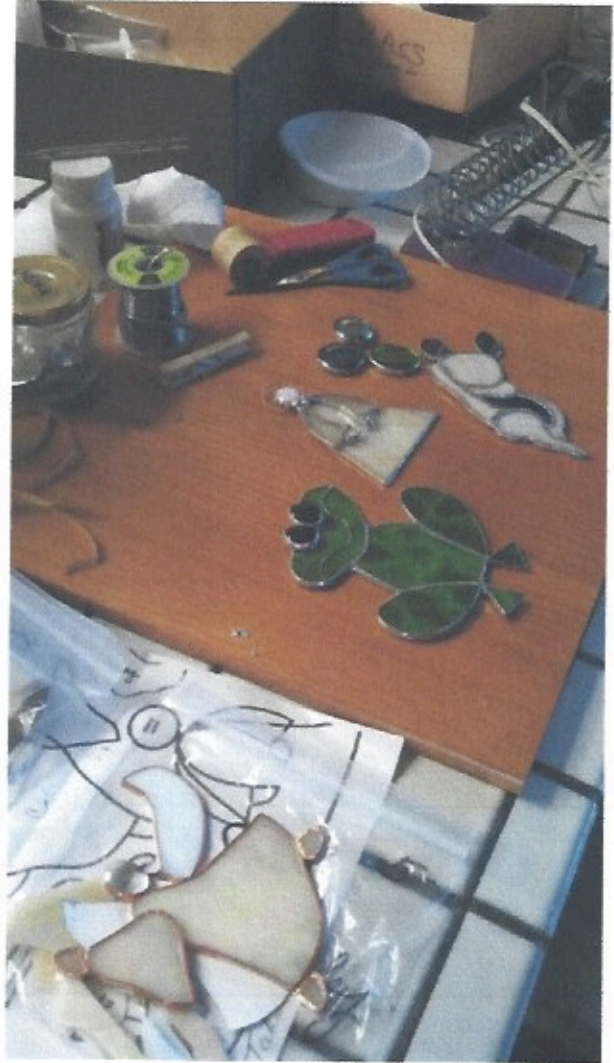
November 9 - 10: SACRAMENTO, CA Sacramento Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Temple
6151 H Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
Contact: Joe Shook, (916) 224-7248
Email: joeshook08@gmail.com Website: www.sacramentomineralsociety.org

November 9 - 10: YUBA CITY, CA Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds - Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Kartie Slightam, (530) 673-9649
Email: mktalternatives@comcast.net Website: www.sutterbuttes.net

November 23 - 24: LIVERMORE, CA Livermore Valley Lithophiles
The Lithorama, 3131 Pacific Avenue, off So. Livermore Ave
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Lee Davisson, (925) 371-0699
Email: info@lithophiles.com WebSite: www.lithophiles.com

Up-coming Field Trips:

On December 28th Rock Hound Field Trip Fanatics



Stained glass workshop

Wednesday's 9AM - Noon

Betty Pankey instructor

See Betty if you are interested

CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY www.ccmgs.org

P0 Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (Third Monday of the month in June)
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!

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