

ROCK WRITINGS

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 44, Number 7

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

July 2010

President's Message by Jan Longacre

Oh, I was so disappointed not to go on the Austin trip. I had the flu all week and part of the weekend. Hope everyone had a great time.

I think our potluck and auction went well. THANK YOU VICKI & BILL for making it a good time.

Well it's almost time for the picnic. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Don't forget the excursion first.



Jan

Aren't Field Trips Great?



It is still early in the year, however, our club has had several really good field trips already!

Shown here, Dan Chaplin holds up one of the fine rocks he collected while on the recent trip to the Majuba Mine and the 56 Mine. See page 4 & 5 for more photos of the trip.

Junior Rockhounds went on a Field Trip

Last month we had a field trip over to see Bill Sagaser's rock collection. Anna, 12 years old says, "the trip was fun because they have a whole ton of really awesome rocks, and we got to take home a couple. They had two whole rooms full of rocks, from floor to ceiling and wall to wall! When we walked to Mr. Sagaser's rock shop, it was really neat to see all the tumblers going at once. There were about 5 of them. Now I know how to make all those polished rocks he's always out! There is really a pretty view from their house, and there were rocks everywhere in their yard!" San, 8 years old said he was glad to show his collection off.

All Junior Rockhounds come to the picnic at the North Star Mine July 10th and explore fossils with Anita Wald-Tuttle. These are ancient creatures that inhabited the oceans that covered the central part of our country. We will be working with Hexagormaria, commonly called Petosky Stone to show off it's beauty.

Melba Sagaser

Last Month's Program

It is nice to have a change of pace every so often. Last month we started out with a potluck where there was an array of delicious foods and desserts. Following that, Auctioneer Bill Sagaser and Vicki Black conducted an auction of rocks, fossils, minerals and various other items. The bidding was energetic on some of the more sought after items up for bid and those that persisted were rewarded with the bounty.

Our club benefited from the proceeds and many thanks go out to those that participated in helping with the auction and those that won their bids.

July Calendar of Events

July 4	Independence Day
July 10	Annual Picnic

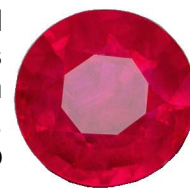


July Birthdays

Jul 11 – Todd Lawson
 Jul 15 – Lori Woodhall
 Jul 17 – Gary Black
 Jul 18 – Cliff Swenson
 Jul 21 – John Oakie
 Jul 23 – Bill Budd
 Jul 23 – Jim Evans
 Jul 26 – Vicki Black

July's Birthstone is Ruby

July's birthstone is the most valued gemstone in the world. Known as the king of precious stones, gem quality rubies are extremely rare. Rubies are more valuable than top quality colorless diamonds.



Ruby comes from the corundum family. It is a crystalline form of aluminum oxide. Corundum colors range from white, gray, brown to black, blue, and deep red. The deep red corundum is ruby. All the others are considered to be sapphire. The red color of ruby ranges from orange-red to purplish red. Ruby has a hardness of nine. It has no cleavage, and the crystal form is hexagonal. They can be found in a tapering prismatic form, pyramidal and tabular.

Rubies are primarily found in Thailand, Ceylon, and Burma. They also come from Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Vietnam, and a few other countries. In the United States, they have been found in North Carolina, and have also been found in other areas in small quantities.

Ruby is usually faceted into an oval shape, but is also attractive in other shapes including heart. Some rubies have six-point stars in them, and are usually then cut into a smooth domed cabochon. Rubies are frequently heat treated to enhance their color. This eliminates purple and brown overtones, leaving a beautiful red. It is an accepted practice.

So, those of you that have your birthday in July, enjoy your elegant gemstone, the ruby!

By Jonathan North

Local Field Trip Same Day as Picnic

Here's a chance to collect some nice rocks from places that are no longer open to rockhounds or haven't been visited by many for many years. Our club has been invited to go to an old member's house and collect from their rock piles. Ben and Gladys Eckhardt were long time members and Ben passed away a year ago and Gladys needs some help. They were active rockhounds and collected beautiful rock from all over. This will be a fee dig with a fee of \$10.00 for a 5 gallon bucket, bring your own bucket.

We have set up the day and times to go to Gladys's house: July 10th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is the day of our picnic so what a great way to spend the day rock collecting and a great get together afterwards.

Gladys lives in a small redwood house. She will have a sign out on the road too.

This is a great chance to get some beautiful rocks.



Sunshine Update



Ed Boyer seems to have sprained one of his ankles and while limping around, he put the other foot through a board on his porch. Not too good for getting around. Get back on you feet soon Ed.

Mary Tucker is our Sunshine reporter. Mary would like any news you would like to share with our members reported to her by calling (530) 265-8320 or you can also contact Jonathan North, editor at (916) 768-0137.

**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Board Meeting Minutes
June, 1 2010**

Meeting called to order by President Jan Longacre at 6:15 pm

Members present: Terry Bartels, Vicky Black, Dan Chaplin, Julie-Anne Lay, Todd Lawson, Jan Longacre, Jonathan North

Minutes from May Board meeting: Approved as printed in bulletin

Treasurer's Report: Accounts healthy. Board approved expense payments for newsletter and historian supplies.

Correspondence: Board voted to not advertise in the Chamber of Commerce visitor guide at this time.

Committee Reports:

Membership: New application for Steven and Leslie Crick approved.

Bulletin: No report

Field Trips: 16 people attended the Majuba Mine trip. Everyone had fun and found plenty of mineral specimens. On Sunday the group split into two, and went to Fossil Hill and Star City areas. Thanks to Dan Chaplin who helped Vicky Black lead the trip. CFMS trip to Austin, NV June 12/13th. Other trips listed in the bulletin.

Federation: CFMS/AFMS Show June 18-20. Jonathan North will be attending the directors' and editors' meetings and the banquet.

Historian: Thanks to Vicky Black for donating photos from various field trips for the Club album.

Show Chairman: Show fliers have arrived.

Webmaster: Website is up to date

Picnic: Next program. July 10th, 2-5pm at Glenn Jones Park, Grass Valley.

Program: June program is a live auction and pot luck

Continuing Business: Frank Rohleder is currently unable to participate in the club. He has returned the tumblers and Danny Kiesling has taken over to tumble rocks for the Show. Terry Bartels volunteered to help with the silent auction at the Show. Dak and Leslie will help Melba with the kids corner.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned: 6:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
General Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2010**

Our June meeting was condensed to accommodate the potluck and auction. Following the normal introductory formalities we went right into the potluck and auction.

Thanks to all that attended.

**CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD
TRIPS FOR 2010/2011**

- July 19 & 20** Virgin Valley, NV for opal, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Society, Wayne Meissner
- Sept. 4, 5, 6** Austin, NV for fluorite, snakeskin agate, other minerals El Dorado Co. Club, Barbara Terrill
- Date TBA** Minnesota Mine for minerals, Sacramento Mineral Society, Joe Shook.
- Oct. 2** Griffith Quarry, Penryn, CA for a tour of the quarry, Lincoln Hills Club, Ron Clawson
- Oct. 9, 10** Fernley, NV for various minerals, Sutter Buttes Club, Gerry Hill
- Oct. 23, 24** New York Cyn., NV for epidote, copper, minerals, microcline, RRR Club, Jim Hutchings
- Nov. 7** Black Butte Reservoir for jasper, El Dorado Co. Club, Ron Stone
- Nov. 24-28** TBA, Mother Lode MS, Al Troglin
- Jan. 5-22, 2011** Tanzania, East Africa for sapphires, other gems & minerals. North Bay Field Trips, Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society, Dennis Freiburger. (For contact information, contact your club's field trip leader or editor.)



7th version, June 21, 2010, Co-Op

Deadline for the August 2010
Newsletter is July 20, 2010

**Next CO-OP Meeting
Sunday, August 15, 2010
Coco's Family Restaurant
7887 Madison Ave.
(NW corner of Sunrise Blvd./Madison)
Citrus Heights, CA**

A Field Trip to the Majuba Mine and 56 Copper Mine

Field Trip leader Vicki Black really knows how to pick field trip sites. Those that went on the trip found plenty of really nice specimens.
If you missed this trip, keep looking for more.



Base Camp



Starting up the hill to the Majuba Mine



Getting ready to climb the hill to the mine. It looked like a ways up there and it was!



Majuba Mine looking back at parking area





Everyone found something at the 56 Copper Mine. Dan digs some serious holes...yes, he said he filled them in when he left.

*Photos by
Vicki Black and Lori Woodhall*



Getting there is half the fun...just ask Jan



The 56 Copper mine had many nice specimens.



Lori takes a breather from picture-taking and then someone thinks they have to take one of her. She likes to hunt rocks too.



Can I just take the whole hillside?

A "CO-OP MEMBER" FIELD TRIP TO VIRGIN VALLEY, NV (date published 6/21/10)

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- CO-OP website has information: www.ourfieldtrips.org (Password is needed).
- Insurance Requirements: A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site. All field trip attendees must contact the field trip leader before the field trip regarding insurance requirements.

TRIP LOCATION – Virgin Valley, Nevada (North of Winnemucca, NV)

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE

Vehicle Access & Parking - #7 difficult access by 2 wheel drive, high clearance required (2 wheel SUV'S, trucks)

Collection or View Site - #3 - 4 flat ground, unpaved sections, NO handicap access or facilities

WHEN – July 19th and 20th, 2010 (Monday & Tuesday)

SPONSOR CLUB – Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club

MEMBER'S GUESTS - Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL - Precious Opal, Petrified Wood

LEADER & CONTACT INFO – PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Dig for opal on July 19 & 20th at the Rainbow Ridge Mine.

MEET – Meet at the pond at the campground at 7:30 A.M. each morning.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP - I-80 to Winnemucca, North on Highway 95 to 140, turn left at Denio Junction onto 140 West. Get gas if available in Denio Junction, possible dinner there also, go West on 140, look for Virgin Valley signs on left, turn into campground and set up camp. Jim Dunlap will be in a 20-ft. trailer with a silver Toyota truck.

VEHICLE REQ'S – (4x4, carpooling) Gravel road usually good but can be rough and dusty. 4x4 recommended due to possible rain, which can make things difficult.

CAMP/FACILITIES – Water available by the shower house, showers, pit toilets and a Geo-thermal pool. There is little to no shade in most of the campground.

TOOLS - Sharp rock hammers, and any strong tool to break up clay boulders without hammering them (you do not want to smash the opal). A custom sharp metal rod with a handle on the end works well. Bring gloves and a first aid kit with fresh Band-Aids. Broken opal is very sharp. Several buckets without holes are very useful to store the opal in until you can get home - it must be kept wet. A small and large rake and shovel can be very helpful moving the large amounts of material around. Zip-lock Baggies are useful to put very good opal in while you are busy.

SAFETY CONCERNS – Normal desert precautions. Always have plenty of gas and water. Vehicle should be in good mechanical shape. Bring sun protection - hats and sunscreen. It can get very cold at night (freezing) so bring warm clothes. Mosquitoes can be a problem at night so bring bug repellent.

CLIMATE/WEATHER - Normally it is 80-90 degrees during the day but can get very cold at night. Rarely a rainstorm can move in without much warning.

CLOTHING - Wear loose fitting clothing for the warm weather during the day and a wide brimmed hat for sun protection. Bring warm clothing and a jacket in case it gets cold at night.

OTHER REMARKS – Scorpions and rattlesnakes can be in the area. Do not try to pet the wild burros-they kick and/or bite!

FEES - \$70 for a day of tailings digging which is recommended for beginners, with children 10-15 yrs. at half price. No child under 10 years old is allowed in the dig area due to insurance. \$500 for a virgin load of fresh, unsorted, from the mine material. The loads are limited to 5 per day and reservations must be made well in advance. Call **IMMEDIATELY** if you want a load! Usually it takes 2 strong adults to go through an entire load in a day. See the website www.nevadaopal.com for more info. if needed. The dig area is closed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Web Site Places in 2010 CFMS Contest



The 2010 CFMS Web Site contest awards were handed out at the Editor's Breakfast during the 2010 AFMS/CFMS Show last month.

Webmaster Jon North won 3rd Place, up from 5th Place last year. Merryan O'Neil is shown presenting the certificate to Jon.

Tips and Hints

Glass specimen covers: Wouldn't it be nice to get a "cheap" clear glass cover for your valuable crystals, minerals, etc? Try this out. At a flea market or yard sale, pick up a few odd wine glasses. With your trim saw, cut the stem off as close to the base of the globe as possible. Polish the goblet end to a glass finish, place over your specimen, and there you are. No more dust on your specimens. Also, looking down through the cut end magnifies what ever you have under it. The stem can be polished flat to mount anything else you fancy.

Glass pedestals for spheres, etc.: Ed Clay also goes out looking for crystal or glass goblets. He cuts the **top** off the glass above where the sides begin to curve into the base. He polishes the cut edge to a glass finish, and has a gorgeous crystal pedestal on which to display a sphere.

*via Pebble Pusher 12/2005,
Backbender's Gazette 3/06,
via RockCollector, 01/2006*

CALAVERAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**COME JOIN US
FOR OUR
TAILGATE SALE**

July 17, 2010

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
2500 MEACHAM RANCH ROAD
ANGLES CAMP

LOTS OF INTERESTING ITEMS, INCLUDING
ROCKS, MISCELLANEOUS LAPIDARY THINGS AND
MANY MORE FUN OBJECTS TO BUY



GEM, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW

August 21 - 22, 2010
SAT 10 AM - 6 PM SUN 10 AM - 5 PM

Over 20 World Class
Dealers and Exhibitors

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
Kids Activities - Gold Panning
Demonstrations - Displays

GREAT FOOD FABULOUS PRIZES FREE PARKING

ORANGEVALE COMMUNITY CENTER
6826 HAZEL AVE, ORANGEVALE, CA

Grand Prize Drawing

Enter to Win a
Treasure Trove of Gems, Jewelry & Minerals

Portion of Proceeds from Drawing to Benefit Twin Lakes Food Bank Drawing will be Sunday August 22, 4:00 pm

ADMISSION: Adult \$4; only \$6 for weekend
Child 12 & under FREE with paid Adult

Portion of Proceeds from Admission to Benefit Twin Lakes Food Bank

www.TreasureTroveOfGems.com
info@treasuretroveofgems.com

CFMS 2010 SHOWS

July 10-11 19-20 2010, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterians memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
Robert Thirlaway (310) 213-7677
Email: thirlawr@earthlink.net
Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>

August 6, 7 & 8 2010, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church
298 S. Thompson Ave.
Hours: 9-5 daily
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788
Email: Rocks4u@prodigy.net
Website: www.omsinc.org

August 7 & 8 2010, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
San Francisco Co. Fair Bldg. (Hall of Flowers)
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
Carleen Mont-Eton (415) 564-4230
Email: publicity@show.sfgms.org
Website: www.sfgms.org

August 21-22 2010, Orangevale, CA

Treasure Trove of Gems
Orangevale Community Center
6826 Hazel Ave.
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
Admission: \$4 per day or \$6 for weekend -
Children under 12 yrs. Free with adult
John Moulder (916) 290-3193
Email: info@treasuretroveofgems.com
Website: www.treasuretroveofgems.com

From CFMS Website July 2010



**RELIABLE
RV**

530-272-4858
530-272-6950

13368 Grass Valley Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945

**PARTS
SERVICE
STORAGE**

Exercise? Absolutely!

by Don Monroe, SFMS Safety Chair
from Lodestar, February 2010

Almost every newspaper or magazine or television advertisement extols the virtues of exercise and usually tries to sell you some sort of equipment. Now the equipment is probably not all bad but may not be necessary. Many forms of exercise such as walking or swimming may be accomplished without any significant investment.

Who really needs to exercise? Basically all of us need to exercise but it takes a lot of commitment to do enough. Think about young children. If we can keep them off the couch and out from in front of the television, they can burn up a lot of energy and hopefully not do too much damage around the house. It often takes a lot of imagination to challenge little ones.

To get pre-teens to exercise, is often more of a challenge because they often have a short attention span and you may need to constantly come up with new ideas or different games. All of you who have dealt with grandchildren are probably aware of just what it takes to keep them doing new and different things. Teenagers present the same issues but just more of them.

As you look through this article you begin to see a pattern. As the participants get older, the job gets more difficult.

Well you haven't seen anything yet. Just wait until we get to adults and, even worse, senior citizens. Many of us have been in a situation where we had to amuse our parents. Mercy, can they be demanding! They often have the attention span of a child but are quite comfortable telling us what to do and how to do it.

Do I have any answers? I am not sure that I do, but I will, however, make the following suggestions:

- Collect puzzles appropriate to the various age groups.
- Look for games. Most game boxes will tell you what age group may be the best.
- Collect crayons, pens, pencils and paper.
- Collect decks of cards and a copy of Hoyle's rules.

Years ago we discovered that our entire family (about a dozen of us) really enjoyed rummy and canasta. Try dominos. There are some new ones on the market.

Last but not least you may want to pray for dry weather. Even a large house seems small on a rainy day.

From AFMS Newsletter, June 2010



Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society



2010 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Jan Longacre
VICE PRESIDENT	Dan Chaplin
SECRETARY	Julie-Anne Lay
TREASURER	Todd Lawson
DIRECTORS	Kim Moore Snakes Hoffmann Terry Bartels

2010 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

FEDERATION DIRECTOR	Jonathan North		
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS	Vicki Black Tony Kampitch Emma Lay Melba Sagaser Alex Lay Jonathan North Vacant Anita Wald-Tuttle Jennifer Wren Melba Sagaser Dan Chaplin Robert & Joyce Emerson Kim Moore Birthday Honorees Kim Moore Marty Patton Joyce Emerson Mary Tucker		
HISTORIAN			
HOSPITALITY			
LIBRARIAN			
MEMBERSHIP			
PARLIAMENTARIAN			
CLUB PICNIC			
JUNIOR PROGRAM CHAIRMAN			
JUNIOR PROGRAM ASST.			
PROGRAM			
PUBLICITY			
REFRESHMENTS			
SHOW CHAIRMAN			
SHOW CHAIRMAN, ASSISTANT			
SHOW DEALER CHAIRMAN			
SUNSHINE			
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jonathan North	(916) 768-0137	jonnorth@comcast.net
	1440 Musgrave Dr. Roseville, CA 95747-6257		
WEBMASTER	Jonathan North	(916) 768-0137	http://www.ncgms.org/

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society holds two meetings every month with certain exceptions. The membership is informed of exceptions during meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting:

First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

Tues. Aug 3, 2010

General Membership Meeting:

First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

Membership Dues: Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$20.00 for singles and \$25.00 for families. For more information or an application, contact Membership Chairman Jonathan North (916) 768-0137. *Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email*

NCG&MS is a non-profit organization that has these objectives:

- ♦ to promote the study of mineralogy, geology and fossils.
- ♦ to encourage the collection of minerals and gems.
- ♦ to foster the study and practice of the lapidary arts.
- ♦ to provide field trips to mineral localities.
- ♦ to promote good fellowship, education and recreation.



NEVADA COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (AFMS)
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (CFMS)

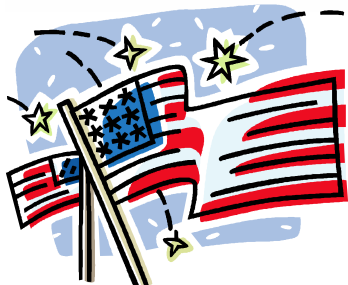


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Please send Exchange Newsletters & Newsletter Submissions to: Jonathan North, Editor
1440 Musgrave Drive, Roseville, CA 95747-6257 or Email: jonnorth@comcast.net



Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 565
Nevada City, CA 95959-0565

First Class Mail



Independence Day 2010!



July 2010



**July is our
Annual Picnic
2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.**



"Bring a dish to share...kind of like a potluck"
Also bring plates, utensils, lawn chairs, etc.
If you want to barbeque, bring your own barbeque

**Glenn Jones Picnic area
at the North Star Mining Museum**

10933 Allison Ranch Road, Grass Valley



**** Bring a Friend! ****

