ROCK WRITIN

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 44, Number 3

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

March 2010

#### President's Message by Jan Longacre

The program last meeting made me wish I was in Quartzite. I sure hope we have this wonderful weather on March 20th, when we go to Reno. I'm really looking forward to the trip. I hope everyone had a great Valentines Day.



Just a few days til the next meeting. See you then.

Jan

# March Program

Most of you are familiar with rocks that are formed within our earth, but how many of you know much about those things looking like rocks but are not of this world?

Meteors and other terrestrial stones find their way to earth, often burning up in the atmosphere before reaching the surface. Then there are others that make it all the way. If it was a meteor, it is then called a meteorite.

Want to learn more? Then be sure to come to the March Membership Meeting for the program: "Stones of the World and Beyond and other Terrestrial Stones." Dick and Nancy Eadington and Heather Keasdy will be showing many of their rare specimens they have collected since 1977.

# March Calendar of Events

- March 2 Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- March 2 General Membership Meeting 7 p.m.
- March 14 Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Spring begins
- March 23 Newsletter items due

# Austin, Nevada Fieldtrip



Last October we had a fieldtrip to the Austin, Nevada area. Great rocks were found and everyone had a good time. Pictured here is Alex Lay and Julie-Anne Lay digging for fluorite specimens. For the story, go to page 4.



So. CA Univ. of Health Sciences Campus 16200 E Amber Valley Rd., Whittier, CA 90604

Host: North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Show Chairman: Mike Beaumont (714-510-6037) Email: diamond.crest@yahoo.com Website: NetworkingWave.com/AFMS2010/



### Last Month's Program

thday

24 - Scott Ingram

"The Greatest DVD on Quartzstie" was a hit amongst members that attended last month's Membership Meeting. For those that had never been to Quartzsite, it got their attention and they can't wait to go next year. To the veteran Quartzsite travelers, it brought back many a memory and some said they miss not going and may have to go again sometime. Then there were the members that didn't get to see the DVD, because they were at Quartzsite.

The DVD not only covered the dealers, it showed that there are all kinds of activities to get involved with, including exploring the surrounding areas for rocks, minerals and old mining sites. There must be a reason so many people flock to Quartzsite every year. Maybe you should put it on your schedule for next year!

#### Deadline for the April 2010 Newsletter is March 23, 2010



Nothing was reported to the Sunshine Reporter this month...everyone must be feeling great!

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.

# March's Birthstones are Aquamarine and Bloodstone

Those born in March have a choice of birthstones. Not only do they have a true precious gemstone called aquamarine, but a semiprecious rock called bloodstone. Aquamarine is the "gem of the sea." Its name comes from the Greek



word for sea water. The beautiful blue color and sparkle of aquamarine is befitting of its name. Aquamarine is of the Beryl family of stones, which is short for beryllium aluminum silicate. Members of the beryl family are determined by their color. The finest quality aquamarine has a strong blue hue, while lighter shades of blue are of lesser quality. Aguamarine with inclusions or a green hue, are considered commercial quality. Other beryls are bright green emerald, red or pink morganite, and yellow golden beryl. It can also be white. Beryl has a hardness of 71/2 to 8. The cleavage is indistinct or in one direction. The crystal form is hexagonal and usually striated lengthwise along the crystal. Beryl is found in pegmatites and certain other metamorphic rocks. Most aguamarine is found in Brazil and on the African continent. In the United States, it can be found in the New England states and in Colorado. Aquamarine is usually facetted into an emerald or oval shape.

There are many legends about aquamarine. It is said to be the treasure of mermaids. It can keep sailors safe from harm while they are at sea. It also is a positive effect on married couples, enabling them to solve problems and to live in harmony. Bloodstone is a chalcedony that is green in color with bright red spots throughout. The red spots are iron oxide. Bloodstone has a hardness of 7, has no cleavage or crystals. It is usually carved or cut and polished.



Bloodstone is mined in India, Australia, and the United States. Bloodstone is called the Mar-

tyr's Gem because Medieval Christians often

carved crucifixion and

martyr scenes into bloodstone. It is said that bloodstone got its origin when some drops of Christ's blood fell upon some green agate while he was hanging on the cross.

By Jonathan North

## Having Fun: Junior Activities by Jim-Brace Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

#### Help Spread the Word about the FRA Program

With the new year upon us, I'd like to issue a plea to AFMS representatives from all our regional Federations (not limited to, but especially regional newsletter editors and junior activities chairs) to actively promote the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. Activity seems to be down a bit lately, and I receive the occasional email asking about the program from junior leaders of local clubs who says they just happened to "stumble across" the program on the web. Rather than having folks stumble their way in, let's guide them to us! Alert folks in your Federation and within your club to <u>http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm</u>.



Any AFMS-affiliated club with even a single junior member can sign that child into FRA at no cost whatsoever, and that child will be sent a free FRA Membership patch, and your club will receive an AFMS/FRA Certificate. From that initial step, kids can then work (either through formal, structured club activities or via home self-study) toward earning 15 free activity badges that span the full range of our hobby, as well as a "Rockhound" badge for kids earning 6 or more activity badges. Again, all free to the child and to the club, thanks to generous funding by the AFMS. Please help to continue spreading the word with brief write-ups in your regional and local newsletters and announcements at your Federation and club meetings. 97 clubs have used the program at various times and in various ways, but that's out of a total of 640 clubs within AFMS. Let's not rest until we've reached out to every child in every club.

Finally, I'm also seeking ideas for new badges we might consider adding to the program in coming years. My goal has always been to re-examine the program every four years or so. Last time was two years ago, when I revised elements of the original 9 badge units and added another 6. I've already, in fact, received some great ideas unsolicited, such as adding units on fluorescent minerals, on thumbnails and micromounts, on map reading, on fundraising, and more. Toward the end of this year or early next year, my plan is to compile a list of potential topics and send them out for comments and votes from participating clubs, so please send me your ideas today. Here's thanking you in advance for your suggestions to make a fun program even more fun!

AFMS Newsletter, March 2010

# CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD TRIPS



Field trips listed in this column usually only contain basic information. For further information and revisions, contact club's field trip leader. The CO-OP website also has information: www.ourfieldtrips.org (Password is needed.) CO-OP trips are 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. A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site, contact field trip leader for any further insurance requirements.

**CFMS Field Trips South trip to Ant Hill, Bakersfield, Ca.** When: On February 27, Saturday at 9am. Material: 15 million year old fossils of shark teeth, whale teeth, seal teeth, porpoise teeth, whale bone, etc from Middle Miocene Marine beds. For more information go to www.cfmsinc.org and click on "Field Trips".

CFMS Newsletter, February 2010

# Austin, Nevada Field Trip

By Jon North

It was getting a little late in the year to be thinking about a fieldtrip. The last days of October were rapidly expiring and it would be November in less than a week. The fresh crisp Autumn air reminded us that Winter was just around the corner, but the call for one more trip was strong within us.

Fieldtrip Leader, Terry Bartels agreed to making a trip to the Austin, Nevada area, since earlier trips had been foiled by numerous events and prior commitments by club members that wanted to go.

Most of Friday was dedicated to travel to the Austin area. If you have never been to Austin, it can be easily found along Highway 50, midway across the state of Nevada. You can't miss it; the highway goes right through town. It has quite a colorful background dating back 1862 when the silver rush began. It was a thriving mining town for a number of years until the silver production slowed. Today it is a living ghost town of a few hundred residents.

There were ten members in the group: Terry and Debbie Bartels; Scott, Julie-Anne, Emma and Alex Lay; Dan Chaplin; Julie and Jon North; and Nancy Spurgeon. Some members had their own camping trailers or elected to rough it. Others, like myself wanted the comfort of a motel bed. The small historical town of Austin sported several motels and each of us found a room at the inn.

Early the next morning we drove out to the first collecting area where we met up with the rest of the group. The sun had started warming the air, but it was a while before we started shedding our jackets.



Dan Chaplin holds up a specimen of Fluorite. It was a nice green color, although hard to tell because of the dirt.

Fluorite had been mined at the site a number of years ago, and the material that was extracted was mostly white in color. The colored fluorite was undesirable to them so it was discarded in the tailing piles. All through the piles you can find green, purple, and some mixed green and purple fluorite. It is a large collecting area and we all dug to our hearts' content, finding numerous fine specimens.



Debbie Bartels found some great specimens. She knew where to dig, because she had been there before.

Following a break for lunch, we headed out to our next collecting site. Just up the road and a short trip out to the west was a collecting area for snake skin agate. Inside of the agate, the colors can range from almost clear to light tan, to pink. No digging was needed to find it, because it sits on the surface. Just look for the telltale markings it displays. Striking out in different directions, everyone soon found plenty of the agate. It wasn't long before everyone claimed that they had the biggest "trophy" specimen. Once again, everyone found plenty of material to be satisfied.

Calling it a day, we headed back to our lodging to ready ourselves for the next day of collecting before heading home.

The next morning, everyone rendezvoused just outside of the town. We had one last place to look for rocks on the way back towards home. Traveling west we soon departed the highway and headed down a long valley and then off onto a small winding dirt road traveling up into the hills. Our collecting

# **ROCK WRITINGS**

site was in the alluvial part of a hill. Blue chalcedony can be found on the surface. The top of the hill is its origin, but is under claim. Years of erosion has allowed small pieces of the chalcedony to travel a long way down the hill. Some members of the party soon had to head home, while others walked over the area and were pleasantly surprised at some of the specimens found.

Eventually, everyone headed for home, pleased to have collected plenty of rocks and having squeezed that one last fieldtrip in before the area became impassable until Spring. Some of us have been doing some thinking during those winter days; when the weather gets better, it may just be time to head up there again for some more collecting and great company with other rockhounds.

(Photos by Julie North)

## Safety

By Bural LaRue, CFMS Safety Chairman

During the recent series of rainstorms I noticed that several drivers did not have their headlights turned on.

Are you aware of the California law that requires drivers to turn on the headlights when operating the windshield wipers? This applies to daylight hours as well! Please turn on your lights for safety.

NEW LAW! Move over for Caltrans vehicles with flashing lights. California drivers must now slow down or move over when they see California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) vehicle flashing warning lights. This is according to recent legislation signed by Governor Swartzenegger.

The new law, Senate Bill 240, adds Caltrans vehicles displaying flashing amber warning lights to the list of vehicles for which motorists must slow and, if safe, move over to a lane not immediately adjacent to the stationary vehicle. To date 45 other states have enacted similar laws requiring motorists to move over or slow down. Violation of the new law is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50. Drive safe! For more work zone safety tips you can visit the California Department of Transportation at www.dot.ca.gov/gq/paffairs/news/pressrel/09pr 23.htm

Source: Riverside County handout

-Bural

CFMS Newsletter, March 2010

# Annual CO-OP Seminar & Auction is March 6, 2010

Fossils for Fun Society will be hosting our annual Seminar and Auction this year.

Please bring your donations for the annual oral auction. Be sure to label each item...and bring good stuff!

The location for the seminar/auction is the El Dorado Community Hall in El Dorado. (Note, El Dorado is south of Highway 50, west of Placerville.) Access to the Community Hall is off of Pleasant Valley Road on Oriental Road (across from the Post Office and between a small used car lot and a trade school). Once on Oriental, turn left at the "T" and curve around to the top of the hill to Community Hall parking lot. We will try to have CO-OP signs along the way.

LUNCH: Lunch will cost \$10.00 and includes a custom-made sandwich, chips and cookie along with drinks and salad. Bring exact payment or a check payable to CO-OP.

Please make an <u>advance selection</u> of your custom sandwich on the online RSVP/Lunch Selection Form at: <u>http://</u>

#### www.ourfieldtrips.org/

form select lunch.html This form will also confirm your attendance at the seminar/ auction. If you have a problem viewing or filling in the form, check to make sure that you are viewing your email in HTML format (not plain text). If you need further assistance, please contact webmaster Merryan O'Neill, mvoneill@comcast.net

#### Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 3, at

**the latest.** Guests are welcome to attend. Please include them on your online RSVP/ Lunch Selection Form.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Bunn, <u>fossilsff@aol.com</u>, (916) 929-6665.

Received from Merryan O'Neill

#### CFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Grow the Federation! By Fred Ott

I've always felt that every Rock and Gem

Society faces many similar challenges, some of which are: How does the organization acquire new members? How are new



members welcomed and introduced to the society? How

does the society retain membership? A successful society recognizes these challenges and establishes policies and procedures to address these issues.

If you observe the handiwork of societies that have consistently grown in membership, you may find "Silver Bullets" which can help your own society achieve similar results. "Growing the Federation" and "Growing Individual Societies" relies upon sharing these ideas and practices and implementing them whenever possible.

For the past several years, I've enjoyed seeing the progress made by several societies that have worked hard to give new members every opportunity to become excited about joining.

#### **Tips & Hints**

**Fisherman's Friend**: Beaders - crimp split shot sinkers on your line to keep beads from slipping off tiger tail while you take a break from your work.

Mother of Pearl for inlay work can be softened by soaking in white vinegar. It then can be cut easily. Don't try to hard-solder any item that has traces of lead solder on the metal. The lead will oxidize and eat holes in the metal.

Don't leave acid bottles open. The fumes will rust your tools.

**Polishing psilomelane**: Use 100,000 diamond on canvas to get good results.

**Polishing fire agate**: Use tin oxide on leather, dry. Polishes in a heartbeat! Heat causes the top surface of the stone to flow, making it glassy.

**Polishing jade**: Heat it up! Use polish on leather. Hold the stone with your fingers, so you know it's not getting too hot.

Gluing doublets: Use 330 epoxy; it's the best. (220 epoxy dries yellowish). The longer you mix the epoxy, the harder the bond will be. Use a bell jar vacuum to pull the bubbles out of the epoxy bond line in your doublets.

from Hound's Howl, 02/2004, via Backbender's Gazette 3/06, via RockCollector, 01/2006 To be sure, the "Best Practices" developed by these societies are only the latest in a series of ever-evolving developments – a real "work in progress" - designed to address the need to truly "welcome" new members and make them glad that they joined.

Beth Myers has an article in this month's newsletter about one such "Best Practice" which has become one of the many "Silver Bullets" of success for a Federation society. If your society doesn't already have a similar program, consider integrating portions of her example into your society's activities.

Remember: Rockhounding is MORE than a hobby; it's a PASSION!

-Fred

CFMS Newsletter, March 2010



#### Field Trips – North By Jonathan North

During these winter months when most of our collecting areas are impossible to get to due to snow and muddy conditions, we have the time to plan where we can go once we can get there.

I am working on a field trip that should be quite enjoyable and will have a variety of materials to be collected. The length and location will most likely be a three-day trip into Nevada. Next month I will have the details and it looks like the trip will be in the later part of April.

There is a lot to do besides thinking about where we will be going when the weather permits, we should be making sure our equipment is ready to go when we are. Make sure you have all the tools you use and that they are in serviceable condition. This could be the year you want to get a GPS unit or upgrade the one you have. Something else that is useful to have along on a field trip is a handheld radio. This can be used to communicate with others in your party or with the field trip leader. And don't forget the most important item of all, your vehicle. It is no fun to get out into the middle of nowhere and have your vehicle give you trouble. In addition to the overall mechanical condition, you should make sure your tires, and spare, are in good condition. Carrying a few spare parts like fan belts, extra water, oil, etc. can be invaluable when you need them. I could go on, but you get the idea.

Have a great month, and remember that any suggestions you have for a field trip in the northern area, let me know. -Jonathan

CFMS Newsletter, March 2010

# CFMS 2010 SHOWS

#### March 12, 13-14 2010, Victorville, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society Stoddard Well Tailgate (Stoddard Wells) Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15 Hours: 8-5 daily Brett Ward (760) 954-4323 Club (760) 243-2330 Website: www.vvgmc.org

#### March 13-14 2010, Spreckels, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club Veteran's Memorial Hall 5th & Liano Streets Hours: 10-5 daily Ernie DeFever (831) 422-3422 Email: <u>minimad64@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>salinasrockandgem.com</u>

#### March 13-14 2010, Turlock, CA

Mother Load Mineral Society Stanislaus Co. Fairgrounds 900 N Broadway Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5 Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494 Email: <u>terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com</u> Website: <u>www.turlockgemshow.com</u>

#### March 20-21 2010, Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Vallejo elks Lodge 2850 Redwood Parkway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Phylis Malacki (707) 745-3255 Email: <u>Vgms01@yahoo.com</u> Website: <u>www.iwired.org</u>

#### March 27-28 2010, Angels Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA) Hwy 49 in Angels Camp Hours: Sat. 10 - Sun. 10-4 Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579 Email: <u>Tak2me@earthlink.net</u> Website: <u>http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org</u>

#### Going to a show? Wear you nametag Hat and vest!

#### March 27-28 2010, Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club Lemoore Trinity Hall 470 Champion Street, Lemoore CA Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Judy Pereira (559) 924-4052 Email: <u>lemooregemshow@yahoo.com</u> Website: <u>www.lemooregems.org</u>

#### March 27-28 2010, Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 Gloria Marie (916) 216-1114 Email: <u>gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.rockrollers.com</u>

From CFMS Website March 2010







# **ROCK WRITINGS**

#### Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Board Meeting Minutes February 2, 2010

**Meeting called to order by** President Jan Longacre at 6pm

**Members present:** Dan Chaplin, Snakes Hoffman, Todd Lawson, Julie-Anne Lay, Jan Longacre, Kim Moore, Jonathan North

**Correction to Minutes of January Board meeting:** Meeting called to order at 6pm

**Treasurer's Report:**Accounts healthy. Todd established online banking and Board approved to accept current balances after reconciliation. Board approved donations to the CFMS endowment fund in memory of members Reba Rohleder and Alan Boone.

# Correspondence: None

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Still collecting 2010 membership renewals.

Bulletin: No report

**Field Trips:** In addition to trips in bulletin, the Club is planning a trip to the mining museum at UNR, Reno on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan North is planning a CFMS North trip to Austin in April.

**Federation:**CFMS is urging clubs to file claims on collecting areas to preserve the ability to collect on them, full information in the newsletter article.

Show Chairman: 2010 Show in negotiations

Webmaster: No report

Picnic: No report

Historian: Emma Lay appointed club historian

**Program:** March program will be on meteorites.

Continuing Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned: 6:50pm

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



#### Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes February 2, 2010

**Meeting called to order by** President Jan Longacre at 7:05 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: 30 members and 1 guest

Sunshine: No report

**Birthdays:** Happy Birthday to the February birthdays

**Program:** Quartzite movie

**Minutes from January General meeting:** Approved as printed in the bulletin.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accounts healthy. A donation will be made to the CFMS Endowment Fund in memory of Reba Rohleder and Alan Boone.

#### Correspondence: None

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Still accepting renewals until the end of February, after that, people will need to go through the application process again.

Bulletin: Need articles from members.

**Field Trips:** March 20<sup>th</sup> Club Trip to McKay Mining Museum in Reno.

**Federation:** CFMS is urging clubs to consider putting claims on collecting areas to preserve them for collecting. Combined AFMS and CFMS Show is in North Anaheim in June.

Show Chairman: No report.

Webmaster: No report

**Picnic:** Glenn Jones Park is reserved for Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm.

**Program:** Next month program will be on meteorites.

**Continuing Business:** Frank Rohleder asked for rocks to tumble for the Show.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned: 8:40pm

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





# Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

#### 2009 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Jan Longacre		
VICE PRESIDENT	Dan Chaplin		
SECRETARY	Julie-Anne Lay		
TREASURER	Todd Lawson		
DIRECTORS	Kim Moore		
	Snakes Hoffmann		
	Terry Bartels		
	2009 COMMITTEE C	CHAIRPERSONS	
FEDERATION DIRECTOR	Jonathan North		
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS	Vicki Black		
	Tony Kampitch		
HISTORIAN	Emma Lay		
HOSPITALITY	Melba Sagaser		
LIBRARIAN	Alex Lay		
MEMBERSHIP	Jonathan North		
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Vacant		
CLUB PICNIC	Anita Wald-Tuttle		
PROGRAM	Dan Chaplin		
PUBLICITY	Robert & Joyce Emerson		
	Kim Moore		
REFRESHMENTS	Birthday Honorees		
SHOW CHAIRMAN	Kim Moore		
SHOW CHAIRMAN, ASSISTANT	Marty Patton		
SHOW DEALER CHAIRMAN	Joyce Emerson		
SUNSHINE	Mary Tucker		
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jonathan North	(916) 768-0137	jonnorth@comcast.net
WEDMACTED	1440 Musgrave Dr. Rose		
WEBMASTER	Jonathan North	(916) 768-0137	http://www.ncgms.org/

#### BMASIER

#### 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



#### General Membership Meeting:

Golden Empire Grange Building 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

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\*

First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

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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email: jonnorth@comcast.net



First Class Mail





March 2010



# **General Membership Meeting**



Tuesday, March 2, 2010 7:00 p.m. Golden Empire Grange 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley



# **March Program**

"Stones of the World and Beyond and other Terrestrial Stones" Presented by Dick and Nancy Eadington"

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