

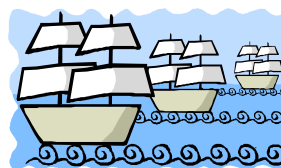
NCG&MS "Rock Writings"

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

First Class Mail



Happy  Halloween



Columbus Day



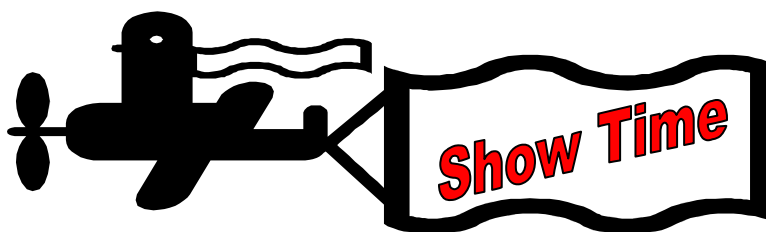
October 2008

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Golden Empire Grange,
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley





Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | <u>2008 ELECTED OFFICERS</u> |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Vicki Black |
| SECRETARY | Terry Bartels |
| TREASURER | Debbie Bartels |
| DIRECTORS | Charles Lindquist |
| | Cliff Swenson |
| | Kim Moore |
| | Gary Black |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| FEDERATION DIRECTOR | <u>2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</u> |
| FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS | Jonathan North |
| | Terry Bartels |
| | Tony Kampitch |
| | Vicki Black |
| HISTORIAN | Pat Breedlove |
| HOSPITALITY | Melba Sagaser |
| LIBRARIAN | Juana Juvenal |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN | Ida Waterhouse |
| MEMBERSHIP | Jeanne Boone |
| PARLIAMENTARIAN | Bill Budd |
| CLUB PICNIC | Anita Wald-Tuttle |
| PROGRAM | Terry Bartels |
| 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 | Jeanne Boone |
| WEBMASTER | Jonathan North |

<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

Meeting, September 2

General Membership Meeting:
 First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
 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 Jeanne Boone. *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)



PERMISSION TO REPRINT ARTICLES IS GRANTED IF CREDITS ARE GIVEN.
 ARTICLES WITH NO CREDITS ARE WRITTEN BY THE EDITOR, JEANNE BOONE

Please send Exchange Newsletters & Newsletter Submissions to: Jeanne Boone, Editor

ROCK WRITINGS

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 42, Number 10

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

October, 2008

President's Message by Vicki Black

Well , here we are right down to the wire. Our 41st annual "Earth's Treasures" show is just around the corner on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12.. Please talk to our Show Chairman, Kim Moore, and let him know how you can help. We always need lots of help with set up and take down and all our helpers can use a respite during the day of the show. There is something for everybody who wants to help.

We will be voting our new officers in next month so if you haven't already volunteered, it's not too late to add your name to the nominations. Give me a call if you have any questions about what a job entails or you can also talk to the outgoing officers and they can answer your questions too.



It's Show Time!



Our show is what you make it. Kim Moore would like lots of help with the show set up. Meet at the main exhibit hall at the Nevada County Fairgrounds on Friday, October 11 at 8:00 a.m., wearing your work clothes to help unload the club trailer, set up vendor tables and assemble the exhibit cases. Bring along your portable drills. At 9:00 a.m., we need help covering the tables. A pair of scissors is helpful with that job.

Your reward for helping to set up the show? Friday evening you will be treated to a "thank you" dinner for workers and vendors at 5:00 p.m.

Melba and Bill Sagaser still need small rocks or polished rocks for the grab bags. The grab bags are popular with kids of all ages. You can also contact Melba at home to drop rocks off at their house before the show..

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these special members!



Oct 01 – Mardie Caldwell
Oct 07 -- Ray Craine
Oct 07 – Ferne Olson
Oct 16 – Dack Burnette
Oct 18 – Terry Bartels
Oct 18 – Joyce Emerson
Oct 23 – Julie Reaney
Oct 27 – Susan Gleason
Oct 28 – Wayne Babros
Oct 28 – Rudy Thompson

October Birthstone by Jonathan North



Opal is an unusual gemstone that has an origin different than any other gemstone. It is considered a mineraloid, meaning its structure is not truly crystalline. It is considered to be a sedimentary rock. To make its formation as simple as possible, opal was formed when water masses , heavily laden with silica, dried up. A small amount of water was trapped within the silica and creates the colorful appearance that we see. Opal is found in white, colorless, pale yellow, pale red, gray or black. The different colors are caused by impurities. They are transparent to translucent, and has a vitreous to pearly luster. It has no cleavage, fractures conchoidal, and it streaks white. Opal has a hardness of 5 - 6. Opal comes primarily from Australia, but is also found in Mexico and the Western United States as well as other locations throughout the world. Some opal has a large amount of color that sparkles and dances from within. This is called fire opal. Fire opal mostly comes from Mexico and Oregon. Opal is a delight to all those with a birthday in October, and loved by everyone else also!

Rock Tumbling Tips



A few rock tumbler tips and reminders!

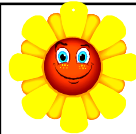
- Plan for disposal of the used grit and tumbling slurry. Do not dump it down a household drain. The grit is very heavy and can settle into traps and drains, clogging them and making a barrier that is difficult to penetrate with drain cleaning tools.
- Patience is a virtue. If your rocks are not nicely shaped after the rough grind step then run them again. Converting rough, irregular rocks into smooth, rounded gemstones takes time.
- If, after burnishing, the stones are still not shiny, you will need to repeat a few steps. The most common reasons why stones may not show a brilliant gloss are:
 1. Not cleaning the barrel and stones well enough after each step, or tumbling cracked or pitted rocks past the coarse grind. Tiny scratches from leftover grit may cause stones to not polish well.
 2. Filling the barrel too full, which limits the tumbling action.
 3. One of the steps may have been rushed.
- The two biggest keys to success in rock tumbling are patience and thorough cleaning. If the rocks show no shine, repeat the fine grind, pre-polish, polish and burnishing steps. If the rocks show some shine, repeat the pre-polish, polish and burnishing steps. Remove any rocks that are cracked or pitted. Let each step run for its full duration before proceeding to the next. Finally, take care to clean the stones and barrel extra well. Keep in mind that not all types of rocks will polish to a high gloss. Harder stones will take a higher shine. If you are tumbling a batch of low hardness materials, a soft luster may be the final result.

Source: <http://geology.com/rock-tumbler/tumbled-gemstone-tips.shtml>

October Calendar



| | |
|------------|--|
| October 7 | Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. |
| October 7 | General Meeting 7:00 p.m. |
| October 9 | Yom Kippur |
| October 10 | Show Setup 8:00 a.m. at the Nevada County Fairgrounds |
| October 10 | Dinner for Setup Workers & Vendors 5:00 p.m. |
| October 11 | "Earth Treasures" 10 a.m.–5 p.m. |
| October 12 | "Earth Treasures" 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Cleanup of show begins at 5 p.m. |
| October 20 | Newsletter items for November due |
| October 31 | Halloween |



Sunshine Update



Terry Bartels has progressed from using a walker to using a cane. He is making good progress in recovering from his hip replacement surgery. Duane DeWitt is recovering from knee surgery. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings again.

Mary Tucker is our Sunshine reporter. Mary would like any news you would like to share with our members reported to her by calling her or you can also contact Jeanne Boone, editor via email or phone.

BE SAFE – BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

Oh Say Can You See?

Many, many of us do not see as well as we would like or as well as we once could. All of these vision problems are not the result of aging. In some cases, other factors play a part in creating the problem.



Pre-teens and older teenagers may have sustained eye injuries while at play due to flying objects or missiles such as a shot from an air rifle. I well remember being hit in the eye with the “ball” from a sweet-gum tree. My cousin could really throw well for a girl. Yes, it was very painful and it took several days to heal. A small amount of permanent damage resulted in what the doctor called a “floater” which is in my eye to this day.

Excessive exposure to bright sunlight has a long-term effect on our eyes. This exposure can result in cataracts and other eye damage. Sun glasses that reduce UV exposure can help.


Are we properly concerned with the lighting that we rely on when we read, write or do close work?

The latest information I received from my ophthalmologist indicates that all of us will have cataracts as we age. These will show up as yellowing in the eye and, for the most part, surgery will not be required. Good lighting will assist us minimizing this effect.

Regular eye examinations and corrective lenses must become a way of life for us if we are going to safeguard our sight. I personally do not see any pleasure in standing on a street corner with a white cane and a tin cup or having our grandchildren read for us because we can't see.

Source: AMFS September 2008 newsletter: <http://www.amfed.org/news/>

**17th ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF GEMS & MINERALS**



NOVEMBER 8TH & 9TH 2008
Dealers, Exhibits, Food, Demonstrations
\$ ADMISSION – Free \$

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday 9 am to 4 pm

**Hosted by Sutter Buttes Gem &
Mineral Society**
Marysville/Yuba City

Franklin Hall, Yuba/Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Avenue, Yuba City, CA

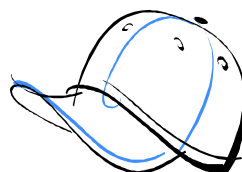
Show Chairman
Cliff Swenson, (530) 272-3752



**RELIABLE
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**PARTS
SERVICE
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530-272-4858
530-272-6950
13368 Grass Valley Avenue
Grass Valley, CA 95945



Advertise: Wear your club hat, t-shirt or vest and let others know you are from Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society.

by Jim Brace-Thompson - CFMS Junior Activities Chair

One of the side benefits of running the Kids Booth at this year's CFMS Show was being in a position to hear what individual clubs across the state do for kids at their local shows. For instance, I was extremely impressed (actually, blown away) to hear that the Santa Clara Valley club sees as many as 2,000 kids trooping through their show!



Making our shows "kid friendly" helps in several ways. We cultivate interest in our hobby at a young age. We attract not just a child but a whole family when we offer fun things for the kids to do—and still more families when kids show other kids in the neighborhood the neat rock or fossil they got at the show. We attract the attention of schools and youth groups, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. And we stand a better chance of attracting local press attention (and free publicity along with it) if we stress that a big part of our shows will be educational and family-oriented.

With all this in mind, I'd like to solicit and compile a list of kids show activities and displays that have been "kid-tested" and proven to be successful and fun. What does your club do for kids at your show? Call, write, or email me to let me know! (7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003; 805-659-3577; jbraceth@roadrunner.com). I'd like to draw up a list, organize it into different sorts of categories, and then post it to the CFMS web site as a sort of "menu" of kids activities and displays that individual clubs might consider when planning their next show. So give me a call: what has your club done during your local show to make sure the kids of your community are having fun?

Source: CFMS September 2008 Newsletter
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
 Presents

Earth's Treasures
2008

Sat. & Sun., October 11 & 12
 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

41st Annual Show
Exhibits of Rocks, Minerals, Carved & Faceted Stones And More



We have a special exhibit!
 Come see a real Cave Bear Skeleton (see back of this flyer)

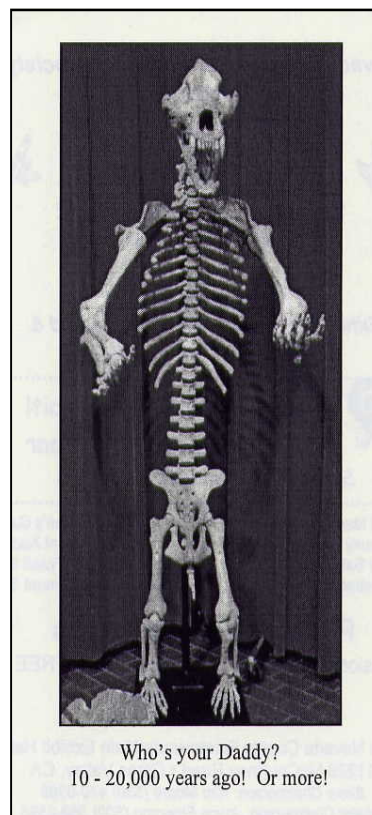
| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mineral Identification | Children's Games |
| Half Hourly Prizes | Silent Auctions |
| Jewelry Sales | Mineral and Fossil Sales |
| Demonstrations | Lapidary Equipment Sales |

Raffles and door prizes

Admission: \$2.00 Children FREE

Plenty of Free Parking
 YOTMC Breakfast Sunday

The Nevada County Fairgrounds • Main Exhibit Hall
 11228 McCourtney Road • Grass Valley, CA
 Show Chairperson: Kim Moore (530) 470-0388
 Dealer Chairperson: Joyce Emerson (530) 559-2595





Pictured to the left:

Cave Bear Skeleton
 that will be on display
 at the
 Nevada County Gem
 & Mineral Show

"Earth's Treasures"
2008
 Saturday & Sunday
 October 11 & 12
 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

El Dorado County
MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY

25th Annual
**ROCK & GEM
SHOW**

OCTOBER 18 & 19
10 AM – 5 PM

**DISPLAYS DEALERS
DEMONSTRATIONS**

Minerals
Jewelry
Beads
Gems
Gold
Fossils
Meteorites
Petrified Wood
Lapidary Material
Equipment & Supplies



**SPECIAL
EXHIBITS**

Geodes! Gold Panning!
**FREE ACTIVITIES and
ROCKS FOR KIDS!**

***Admission: \$3.00**
Kids 12 & under FREE
*Bring a COAT FOR A KID and get
FREE ADMISSION for ONE ADULT

County Fairgrounds
100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA
Hwy 50 Exit 44B - Forni Rd/Placerville Dr

www.ROCKANDGEMSHOW.org
(530) 676-2472

About Mohs

In 1822 a German scientist by the name of Frederick Mohs set up a scale to determine the approximate hardness of minerals. He arranged the minerals in his scale from softest (Talc) to hardest (Diamond). The minerals get increasingly harder as you read down the scale, but they do not increase in hardness at a constant rate. Example: Calcite is not twice as hard as talc and a diamond is not 10 times harder than talc. In fact a diamond is over 40 times harder than talc.

Below is an absolute hardness scale:

1 Talc
3 Gypsum
9 Calcite
21 Fluorite
48 Apatite
72 Orthoclase
100 Quartz
200 Topaz
400 Corundum
1600 Diamond

To remember the Mohs scale, try remembering this phrase: The Geologist Can Find An Ordinary Quartz, (that) Tourists Call Diamond!

*Compiled from <http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/> and
<http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/hardness.htm>
Source: "The Rollin" Rock", Sept. 2008 newsletter
www.rockrollers.com*



by 'Dug' Dugger via Ft Lewis News 6/01
via Golden Spike News 7/01

**Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society Minutes
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2008**

Meeting was called to order by Jon North as acting President: 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: 24 members and 5 guests: Welcome and introduction of guests.

Sunshine: Terry Bartels is recovering well from hip surgery and Duane DeWitt from knee surgery. Tip Ruth has been in a bad accident that took some members of his family.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday to all the September birthdays.

Program: Our member Dan Chaplin was introduced then he presented a computerized show about mineral identification. It was a great program, got all our appetites whetted for collecting minerals.

Thank you Dan!

Committee Reports:

Membership: No report

Bulletin: No report

Field Trips: Debbie Bartels spoke for Terry telling us there was one Co-op trip on the horizon, October 4th, sponsored by the new Sun City Lincoln Hills club. They are going up by Eagle Lakes Rd. for Chinese Writing Rock. Information is on the Club table. Cliff Swenson told us about the Thulite trip, just out of town. Everyone who came brought back nice samples of the material and was happy they went. Thulite comes in everything from pink with green to green and white.

Fossils for Fun is having their Tailgate Jamboree once again at the Kennedy Mine in Jackson. This is their form of a show and lots of fun for anyone who likes fossils. There will also be a pancake breakfast on Sunday and tailgate sales from lots of fossil collectors and tours of the mine. Flyers for the field trip and for the Jamboree are on the Club table.

Federation: Jon North spoke about the CMFS. The Paradise Camp is in its second week now. Not much else going on with the Federation but Jon plans to attend the next meeting. They will be having elections in November.

Show: Everything is coming along. Jon North is in charge of the cases and encouraged everyone to participate. He has a few of the Reno members coming down with cases. Raffle tickets were available and all members are encouraged to pick some up and either buy or sell them. This is our major fund-raiser and a chance for all members to give back to the club. Kim said the publicity signs were not correct and had to be redone. They'll be done in about a week. Kim Moore does have magnetic signs for anyone who would like one to advertise. A few other minor things need to be taken care of, but most of the show planning is coming along well. All those members who take tickets be sure to either scratch out the dates and correct them or let people know the correct dates. The dates should read the 11th and 12th, not the 10th and 12th.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Historian: No report.

Old Business: The minutes for August, 2008 were approved.

New Business: The annual Christmas party was discussed and it was asked if members wanted to go out to a restaurant or have a potluck like we had last year. It was moved and seconded after a brief discussion, that we continue last year's tradition and have a potluck at the Grange. It was passed unanimously by the attending membership that the Christmas party would be again at the Grange. More to come as the date gets closer.

(Minutes continued on page 9)

(Minutes continued from page 8)

Marty Caldwell talked her non-profit event, "Treasures in a Bag." It's a big fund raiser for her organization and the kids love it. She would like to have some treasures donated by fellow Rock Hounds. If anyone would like to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated.

Jon North announced another class from the Roseville Rock Rollers: a beading and cabochon class on 9/13/08. If interested, see him.

Meeting was adjourned: 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bartels
Secretary, NCG&MS

There was no Board Meeting in September. The Board Meeting for October 7th will be held at 6:00 p.m.



Field Trips



A Consent and Assumption

Contact your club's field trip leader for further information and revisions. CO-OP website also has information: www.ourfieldtrips.org

(Password is needed.)

- All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (renters or homeowners policy). These 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.
- of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.

Oct. 4 Tahoe National Forest, west of Truckee for Chinese writing rock (porphyry),
Sun City Lincoln Hills G & M Society, Ron Clawson.

Oct. 25 Tours of Gold Bug and Priest Mines in Placerville, Roseville Rock Rollers Gem
& Mineral Society, Jim Hutchings.

Nov. 1 CO-OP Quarterly Meeting, Amador Club to Host

Thanksgiving Week Location to be Determined, Mother Lode Mineral Society, Al Troglin.

Source: Field Trip Chairmen's Association

<http://www.ourfieldtrips.org>

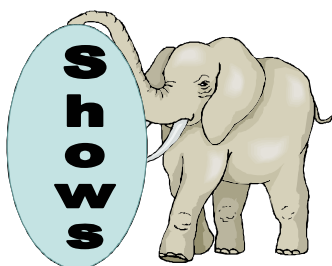
October 5 2008, Fallbrook, CA
 Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
 "Fall Festival of Gems"
 FGMS Museum
 123 W. Alvarado
 Hours: 10 - 4
 Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130
 Diane Tjepkes (780) 468-8028

October 11-12 2008, Grass Valley, CA
 Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
 "Earth's Treasures"
 Nevada County Fairgrounds
 11228 McCourtney Road
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 Kim Moore (530) 470-0388
 Email: Kmoore160@comcast.net

October 11 - 12 2008, Trona, CA
 Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
 "66th Annual Gem-O-Rama"
 Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
 13337 Main Street
 Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4
 Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
 Email: glgms@wvisp.com
 Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html

October 11-12 2008, Lakeside, CA
 Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
 12584 Maplevue
 Hours: 10-5 both days
 David Newton (619) 390-5054
 Email: jontom@nethere.com
 Webpage: ecvgms.com

October 11-12 2008, Vista, CA
 Vista Gem & Mineral Society
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
 2040 North Sante Fe Avenue
 Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
 Cherie Wilson (760) 941-7073
 Lois M. Hair (760) 724-0395



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October 18 2008, West Hills, CA
 Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
 First United Methodist Church
 22700 Sherman Way
 Hours: 10-5
 Virginia Rotramel (951) 403-2634
 Email: show@rockchippers.org
 Webpage: www.rockchippers.org

October 18-19 2008, Anderson, CA
 Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
 Shasta District Fairgrounds
 Hours: 1 Sat. 9-5: Sun. 10-4
 Bill Seward (530) 365-8641
 E-mail: glseward@sbcglobal.net
 October 18-19 2008, Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds
 100 Placerville Drive
 Hours: 10 - 5 both days
 Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975
 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org
 Show Website: <http://www.rockandgemshow.org>
 Website: eldoradomineralandgem.org

October 18-19 2008, Santa Rosa, CA
 Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
 Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
 Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
 Tom Dering (707) 564-4537
 Email: farmarch@sonic.net
 Website: www.gem-n-i.org

October 18-19 2008, Whittier, CA
 Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
 Whittier Community Center
 7630 Washington Avenue
 Hours: Sat. 10-5 both days
 Jay Valle: (626) 934-9764
 Email: res19pnb@verizon.net

October 25-26, 2008, Los Altos, CA
 Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
 Los Altos Youth Center
 One San Antonio Road
 Hours: Sat. 9-5 pm, Sun. 9-4 pm
 Stan Bogosian: (408)568-2489
 Email: sbogosian@aol.com

Source: CFMS Website:
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>