October 2009

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

October Program
Jonathan North “Putting Together a Display Case”
Dan Chaplin “Demonstration of Mineral Identification”
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

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

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

Tues. October 6, 2009

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 at (530) 268-8857. “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: Jeanne Boone, Editor
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President’s Message
by Vick Black

Here we are right down to the wire again. Our 42nd annual “Earth’s Treasures” show is just around the corner on Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11. Please talk to Kim Moore, our Show Chairman, 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 days of the show. Some dealers may need help setting up and taking down too. There is something for everybody who wants to help.

We will be voting our new officers in the next month so if you haven’t already volunteered, it’s not to 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. We’ll discuss which offices need to be filled at our next meeting. Our club is what you make it!

Oct 05 -- Susan Dubesa
Oct 07 -- Ray Craine
Oct 07 -- Ferne Olson
Oct 16 -- Dack Burnette
Oct 18 -- Terry Bartels
Oct 18 -- Joyce Emerson
Oct 28 -- Rudy Thompson
Oct 28 -- Nancy Spurgeon
Oct 30 -- Duane DeWitt

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Presents
Earth’s Treasures
2009
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 10 & 11
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

42 Annual Show
Exhibits of Rocks, Minerals, Carved and Faceted Stones and More

Mineral Identification
Half Hour Prizes
Mineral & Fossil Sales
Lapidary Equipment Sales

Raffles and door prizes
Admission $2.00
Children Under 12 Free

Plenty of Free Parking
The Nevada County Fairgrounds - Main Exhibit Hall
11228 McCourney Road. Grass Valley
Show Chairman: Kim Moore (530) 470-0388
Dealer Chairman: Joyce Emerson (503) 559-2595
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 9 at 8:00 a.m. wearing your work clothes to help unload the club trailer, set up the vendor tables and assemble the display cases. Bring your portable drills. At 9:00 a.m., we will be covering the tables and scissors will be needed. Some vendors may need help unloading too.

Your reward for helping to set the show will include lunch and a “thank you” dinner for workers and vendors at 5:00 p.m. on Friday evening.

Don’t forget to bring items for the drawings and prizes and rocks for the silent auction. Polished rocks and small rocks and minerals drill are appreciated for the grab bags that are popular with kids of all ages.

Sunday, October 11, at 5:00 p.m., the show ends and help will be needed to take down the tables, display cases and general cleanup of the hall. Some vendors may need help also in packing up.

September Program

Our September program was one that our club always enjoys. It was time for members to “Show & Tell” about the finds from rockhounding field trips.

Members sharing their treasures from trips were Vicki Black, Terry Bartels, Julie-Anne & Alex Lay, Frank Rohleder and Dan Chaplin.

Thanks for a great program!

Radioactivity and You

I taught military students about nuclear weapon effects and defense against same for my two years U S Army active duty service many moons ago. My feeling at the time was that few outside the nuclear physics or health physics world had any meaningful understanding of this topic. I fear that the general knowledge has not improved much since then.

When the term ‘radioactivity’ is used in general conversation, I feel most thoughts focus on Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. I know scores of people who would take a wide berth around an operating nuclear power plant (out of safety concerns) rather than take one of the fascinating tours some of them offer.

Radioactivity and fluorescence are somewhat related, in that neither can be detected by any of the five senses; specific electronic devices are necessary to know their existence. However, fluorescence can’t hurt you, while radiation can be a hazard.

There are three types of radioactivity that may be emitted by the unstable nuclei of certain minerals. Borrowing on the Greek alphabet, they are:

• Alpha: structurally a helium nucleus. This form of radiation has very low penetrating power (can be stopped by a sheet of paper), thus is no hazard outside the body. Internally, however, it poses a risk if an alpha emitter would be inhaled or ingested.

• Beta: structurally, a stream of electrons. Beta has some penetrating power, though can be stopped by a thin piece of aluminum. It is more of an external hazard than alpha – prolonged skin contact will produce a sunburn-like effect. Internally, it’s of lower hazard than alpha, but eating is not advised.

• Gamma: essentially similar to X-rays. These, depending on energy level, have great penetrating power, and can be stopped only with generous amounts of high-density materials such as Lead. They may pass through the body without doing damage, or may chip electrons off atoms and cause great damage if the energy is high and the exposure time is long. (Continued on pg. 5)
How may one identify such species in their collection? To start, some of the more common radioactive minerals are: Uraninite, Torbernite, Autunite, and Gummite – all uranium containing species. To detect them, a Geiger counter (military Radiac instrument) is needed. eBay lists quite a few devices in the $20 - $60 range, most are Civil Defense items. Many of them measure Gamma dose rate and detect Beta, such as the CDV 700 device used by Civil Defense. Alpha detectors are unusual, and harder to find. If you have a local CD unit, they may be willing to lend you a device. In any event, you need one used for personnel monitoring (lower dose rate) rather than one for survey.

So, you determined part of your collection is radioactive...what to do. Common sense takes over. Don’t eat, drink, or smoke while handling these materials. Wash your hands after handling. Store them further away from your living areas (dose rate decreases with the square of the distance). Avoid mechanical processes which may put fine debris in the air. Consider that Lead-lined box for fairly strong Gamma emitters (but not for Beta).

Like many other hazards in life, one can generally control them with knowledge. Handled safely, you’ll get more radiation in a CT scan, from normal background (always present) radiation – cosmic rays and naturally occurring radioactives, and from the radioactive Potassium 40 present in your own bodies than you will from your mineral collection.

Free safety P.S.: The US Dept of H&HS offers a household product safety site, which may be reached at http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm. This site includes many specifically named commercial products commonly found around the home and discusses topics such as health effects, symptoms of exposure, first aid, physician notes, and many others.

Additional information may be found at www.hedegaard.com/Minerals/Groups/radioactives.html. This link is fairly well written and may be included for those who wish to do additional reading:

Source: AMFS September 2009 Newsletter http://www.amfed.org/news

Supporting the AFMS Birthstone Stamps Campaign with Your Juniors
by Jim Brace-Thompson

For some time now, Wendell Mohr has been encouraging us all to lobby the U.S. Postal Service via the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to create a set of U.S. postage stamps around the theme of the 12 birthstones. Wendell is Commemorative Stamp Chairman of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and many have supported him in his effort. For instance, AFMS Past President Shirley Leeson and President Joy Bourne have spread the word; in fact, Nancy and I spent a little time manning a booth at the 2008 Tucson show, where Shirley, Dee Holland, and other AFMS officers were diligently distributing literature to all passers-by beneath a large poster depicting the traditional birthstones. And Bob Jones devoted his entire “On the Rocks” column in the recent July 2009 issue of Rock & Gem magazine to this effort.

I encourage all clubs to turn this into a special project for their pebble pups and junior members. This presents a perfect opportunity to teach kids about gemstones via the ever-popular avenue of birthstones. Hold a group talk about gems in general and birthstones in particular, or assign kids to learn about their own birthstones and report back at the next meeting. Our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program offers a “Gemstone Lore & Legend” badge, and unit 13.2 focuses on birthstones. So you can also help your club’s junior members earn an FRA badge!

Information about birthstones is contained within our Badge Manual, and Bob Jones’ article referenced above tells where each birthstone can be collected within the United States, along with other fascinating tidbits about birthstones.

To cap off the exercise of learning about birthstones, you can teach about the political process by having your club’s kids draft a group petition, individual letters, or both to mail to: Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn St., Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432. Also, point your computer to http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm on our AFMS web site for helpful info to use in this endeavor, including a colorful key to birthstones for each month, courtesy

(Continued on pg. 6)
of wonderful photos from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The CSAC receives 50,000 proposals for new stamps or stamp sets each year, so they need to hear from a lot of voices to support and approve any one proposal. Let them hear the voices of children from across our fair Federation!

Working with your club's kids in this effort is one way to educate about captivatingly beautiful gemstones, about the political process, and, as always, about having fun!

Source: CFMS October 2009 Newsletter
http://www.cfmsinc.org/
Meeting called to order by President Vicki Black at 6.05pm
Members present: Terry Bartels, Vicki Black, Jeanne Boone, Dan Chaplin, Julie-Anne Lay, Kim Moore, Jonathan North

Minutes from August Board Meeting: will be read at October meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Alan Boone has stepped down as treasurer due to sudden illness. Vicki Black volunteered to take over until the next elections. Jeanne Boone gave the report to the Board. All accounts are healthy. Our rent is paid through September. Show insurance is paid. Kim Moore needs a copy to take to the fairground office. Payment approved for Director’s and Officer’s Insurance renewal, and for raffle ticket printing.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:
- Membership: Member badges arrived for new members to be given at general meeting
- Bulletin: No Report
- Field Trips: Oct 24th GPS Seminar, Roseville Rockrollers. Vicki Black attended Coop field trip meeting. Coop schedule for 2010: April 2/4 Black Butte Reservoir; April 17/18 Fallon, NV; May 15/16 Mt Majuba, Imlay, NV (NCGMS); May 22/23 Silver Springs, NV (El Dorado); Oct 23/24 NV Canyon, NV (Roseville); Nov 7 Black Butte (El Dorado).
- Federation: No report
- Show Chairman: Final plans coming together. Raffle tickets have been printed. Some concerns that the Union sponsored “Home Show” is trying to take the 2nd weekend in October from the club.
- Webmaster: No report
- Picnic: Payment given to Anita Wald – Tuttle to make reservation for next year
- Program: Members’ Summer collecting “Show and Tell”

Continuing business: None
New business: None

Meeting adjourned: at 6.40pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Meeting called to order by President Vicki Black at 7:10pm
Pledge of Allegiance
Present: 33 members and 0 guests
Sunshine: Alan Boone is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer and has had to step down from his position as treasurer. Best wishes to Alan and Jeanne from all the members. Reba Rohleder has not been well – best wishes to her also from the club.
Birthdays: Happy Birthday to the September birthdays.
Program: Members share their finds from summer rockhounding trips. Presentations by Vicki Black, Terry Bartels, Julie-Anne & Alex Lay, Frank Rohleder and Dan Chaplin.
Minutes from August Board Meeting: Approved as read by President
Treasurer’s Report: Vicki Black will temporarily take over from Alan. All accounts are healthy. The Board approved payment of the club Coop membership dues and the Insurance for Directors and Officers and payment for raffle ticket printing.
Correspondence: No correspondence
Committee Reports:
  Membership: Membership badges arrived for Nancy Spurgeon and Susan and Gerald Dubesa.
  Bulletin: Jeanne Boone will continue to publish the bulletin and take care of membership.
  Field Trips: Upcoming trips printed in bulletin. Also, there is a trip to Black Rock Desert Sept 18-27 Co-op members welcome. Scott Paradis 707-447-5271. GPS seminar by Dennis Freiburger Oct 24th Roseville Rock Rollers contact Terry Bartels for more information. Club trip to Austin sign up sheet at meeting with possible dates in October. More details next meeting.
  Federation: Jonathan North will be attending the CFMS director’s meeting Nov 6-8.
  Show Chairman: There is concern over the Union sponsored “Home Show” trying to get our “Earth Treasures” show weekend slot. Some vendors will need help in unloading Friday and then loading up on Sunday. Help is needed with set up on Friday 9th, lunch will be provided. Dinner at 5pm. Members need to take fliers to distribute locally and sell raffle tickets. Grand prize is a gold nugget necklace. Letters sent out to all last year’s exhibitors.
  Picnic: We are unable to reserve park until 2/1/10. Should we consider another venue?
  Program: Next month, Jonathan North will do a presentation on putting together a Show Case and Dan Chaplin will give a demonstration of mineral identification.
Continuing business: None
New business: Need to have nominating committee by November meeting to put forward officers for 2010 elected positions.
Meeting adjourned: at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2009

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.
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.

Oct. 3 Empire Mine Tour. Sun City Lincoln Hills G & M Club, Ron Clawson, by phone or email.

Oct. 10 - 12 Fernley, NV for agate, jasper-agate, opalite, rhyolite, calcite, Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Club, contact Gerry Hill.


Nov. 25 - 28 Southern CA – annual Thanksgiving week trips. Mother Lode Mineral Club, Al Troglin by phone or email.

Sources: Florence Brady, Co-op Field Chairman & CFMS website: www.cfmsinc.org/

“Digging Deeper into the Comstock”
2009 Earth Science Week Field Trip
October 10 or 11, 2009

Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology

To celebrate National Earth Science Week 2009, the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology is offering a public field trip titled “Digging Deeper into the Comstock,” to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Comstock Lode silver discovery in 1859. We are planning a field trip this year to appeal to people of all ages who enjoy digging deeper into the geological reasons why the Comstock Lode formed, and collecting a variety of interesting rocks. Please sign up to attend on either Saturday, Oct 10th, or Sunday, Oct 11th (the same field trip is repeated on two consecutive days). You must sign up online prior to the trip and sign a waiver form.

This year's ESW field trip participants will meet at and depart from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology's new Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library, located at 2175 Raggio Parkway on the Desert Research Institute campus in Reno. Directions and a map to this facility are at this link: http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/ads/GBSSRL_index/index.htm

We will make a few geologic stops on our way up the Geiger Grade (NV341) to Virginia City, where we will explore the geology of the Comstock. There will be several geologists along on the trip to help answer your questions about geology and identify a variety of rocks. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about Geocaching and Earthcaching - a high-tech treasure hunting game using GPS devices. If you have a hand-held GPS unit, bring it, so you can find the Geocaches and Earthcaches located near some stops.
October 3-4 2009, Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum
123 W. Alvarado Street
Hours: 10 - 4 both days
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130
Email: ikonnimating@gmail.com

October 3-4 2009, Oroville, CA
Feather river Lapidary & Mineral Club
Oroville Municipal Auditorium
1200 Myers St.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Connie Rossetto (530) 59-1840
Email: crossetto@aol.com
Website: www.orovillerocks.com

October 10-11 2009, 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
Website: www.ncgms.org

October 10-11 2009, Trona, CA
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building
13337 Mian Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4
Jim & Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
Email: sigms@iwvisp.com
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 17 2009, Woodland Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rockchippers
First United Methodist Church
22700 Shemman Way, West Hills
Hours: Sat. 10-5
Email: show@rockchippers.org

October 17-18 2009, Lakeside, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12684 Mapleview Ave.
Hours: 10-5 daily
Carolyn Boland (619) 561-7498
Email: bobpeggy99@aol.com
Website: www.ECVGMS.com

October 17-18 2009, Placeerville, CA
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds
100 Placerville Drive
Hours: 10-5 daily
Jackie Cerrato (530) 676-2472
Email: info@rockandgemshow.org
Website: http://www.eldoradomineralandgem.org
Show Website: http://www.rockandgemshow.org

October 17-18 2009, Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Building
1351 Maple Ave. (Opposite Fairgrounds)
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
Website: www.gem-n-i.org

October 17-18 2009, 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 24-25 2009, Los Altos, CA
Peninsula Gem & Mineral Society
Los Altos Civic Center Youth Center
One San Antonio Road
Hours: 10-5 daily
Dave Muster (408) 245-2180
Email: mustlersgems@yahoo.com

November 7-8 2009, Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road (Corner of Ygnacio & Clay-
ton Rd)
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Harry Nichandros
Email: show2009@ccmgs.org
Website: http://ccmgs.org