



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dennis Geare

September 2023

It's almost September. The Dog Days Of Summer are here and with them, fires. Our hearts go out to the residents of Maui, many of whom are stepping up to assist any way they can. Numerous organizations are stepping up with funding to assist recovery efforts. We wish them well. A reminder to be fire safe here!

August 4-7 was the field trip to Davis Creek near Alturas. We look forward to John Dolman's report collecting various varieties of obsidian.

September birthstone is Sapphire, commonly blue green, but is also found in a rainbow of colors. If you are ever in Western Montana near Rock Creek, visit Gem Mountain where the whole family can screen for rough sapphires in blue green, pink & yellow. Cuttable sapphires can be sent out for heat treatment and cutting! Early miners for silver and gold found sluice boxes clogged with "colored pieces of glass" and threw them in buckets for disposal. Oh, to find one of those buckets!

Our August general meeting was informative, with Frank Van Heck's meteorite program. As always Frank regaled the members with a plethora of specimens of different interesting types. Frank was presented by the Executive Committee with a plaque and honor as a Life Member of our club, attesting to his significant contributions to NCGMS. Congratulations Frank, well deserved!

In memorium, we recognized Rudy Thompson's life. Members remembered Rudy with stories. Rudy was 110 years young and we will miss him, especially recognizing his birthday with a cake and song every year at our annual show. Good rock hunting Rudy!

October Show – Frank Van Hecke, is diligently working with our vendors for a great show.

Please sign up to help. Many hands make a great show!!

Our club continues to grow, and members express an interest in good programs to learn more about Gems, minerals and collecting. **To that end, we ask that anyone in the club contact VP Eric with suggestions for good, educational programs. This is YOUR club. Be active and help make it the Gem and Mineral Club we can be proud of!**

Thank you all for your contributions to the historic Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society!
Stay Cool and Safe,
Dennis

Our Show!!



...Just around the corner, October 7,8th.

The show is one of our club's major activities! Besides being our major funding event, it is from the show that we get our major public presence! A large number of our present (and past) members first heard about our club from the show.

So this is an All Hands on Deck event!

Setup will start Friday October 6th, 9:00 AM. Everybody show up!

Frank will have arranged to have the trailer there by that time. We need hands to set up the dealer and display tables. We need to apply the skirting to the tables to give our show the unique Green and Gold color trim to all tables which just plain looks GREAT!

Display cases need to be set up. There will be coffee and donuts in the morning and snacks throughout the day. We usually send out for Pizzas for later so we will all be well fed!

Some of the club cases were damaged by this winter's storms and a bad leak in the club trailer. Others had been broken during use or had broken glass. The repairable cases are being repaired as we speak and new Lexan plastic (unbreakable and lighter) for the case fronts.



Possible BLM rule Change could affect Rockhounds!

New Federal Rule Would Limit Camping Access to Off-Grid BLM Spots - Drivin' & Vibin'
<https://drivinvibin.com/2023/08/05/new-blm-rule/>

A new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rule could cause a problem for the boondocking community. If passed, the ways people use public property could look very different.

Those who enjoy camping in remote areas need to stay aware. Luckily, there's time to voice your opinion and tell officials what you think.

Today, we're digging into the details to see how this new BLM rule could affect your future adventures.

Let's dive in!

Inventory Reduction: Stuff for sale!

On behalf of the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society we are reaching out to our participating dealers to let you know that John Moulder of G&B Gemstones is looking to liquidate part to all his inventory, immediately. According to John his inventory includes faceted and cabochon gemstones, gemstone and lapidary rough, gold and silver jewelry, and much more. If you are interested John said to just give him a call and he'll talk specifics about what he has and to make arrangements for a viewing. John can be contacted at 916-218-5240.
Pam DiFilippo, Secretary, EDCMGS

In Memorial

Hugh Brady passed two weeks ago, 7/20, and his memory will always be with members of our club. There will be a memorial case for Hugh at the upcoming next weekend - Roseville Rock and Gem Show. A majority of the silent auction material will be things Hugh has collected. Stop in and check it out.

Gwen Fissel

This is Your Club – Do You Want it to Continue?

As you know, the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society (NCGMS) is committed to make a positive difference in Nevada County providing unique education and recreation opportunities to members and the general community. These include open membership opportunities, scholarships, educational presentations, the annual Earth's Treasures show open to the anyone, field trips, juniors learning, and more.

All of these efforts take work. General business and framework to provide the NCGMS supporting backbone comes from the elected members of the board. Committee work for field trips and juniors programs are led by members willing to support those efforts. The big annual effort of the Earth's Treasures show serving both as the biggest NCGMS fundraiser and largest community outreach is managed by very few – and that has been dwindling.

Member participation and volunteer support has been dropping since before COVID-19 hit and continues. This is not unique to NCGMS or other mineral societies, with the outcome that many across the country have simple disbanded as happened last year with the nearby Sutter Buttes Club. The NCGMS is at a crossroads facing a similar fate to the Sutter buttes Club – that is a small handful of people making things happen eventually burn out, and with no one stepping up to help, the club can no longer function.

For a couple years now board and committee positions have been have been going vacant – this is shameful and risks the club's long term viability. Likewise relying on a very few for big time commitments like field trips or the annual show risks losing those essential programs.

Many opportunities exist to make NCGMS a robust club with a big community impact:

- Board Positions
- Committee positions
- Support Field Trips
- Community Outreach
- Annual effort by everyone at the Earths' Treasures Show is also expected at the show and year-round including set up/tear down, efforts during the show (outreach, security, ticketing, games, etc), advertising/outreach, materials prep (tumbling, supplies, etc), trailer equipment maintenance, solicitation of donations, business (contracting, accounting, etc), and more. Coming in once a year during the show and doing something for an hour and then disappear for the year is nice (and is actually more than many members contribute), but it really does not do all that much. Ideally all NCGMS members would take on one task during the year and support the show on many of the needed tasks.

What can you do to make NCGMS strong now and into the future? It is simple, don't just sit on the sidelines and be a "good idea fairy", but volunteer to support your club by serving directly. Your knowledge and time will be graciously accepted and appreciated by everyone!

NEVADA COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Call to Order at 6:03PM

Determination of a Quorum: **Not met**

Board Members Present: **Dennis Geare, Christie Harris, Sheila Baker.**

Polly Marie arrived 6:15, Quorum now met.

1. Approval of Minutes of June meeting. **Sheila Moved, Christie seconded. Approved.**
2. Correspondence: "Show stuff for Frank"
3. Treasurer's Report: **Reported balances. Club is in good financial shape. Christie moved to approve, Sheila seconded, Approved.**
4. Old Business:
 - a. **Scholarship Criteria and Updates: One \$1,000 scholarship for Sierra College Student and one \$500 scholarship for NJUHS Senior student. Preferably Geology or Earth Sciences. Scholarship chair to review applications.**
5. Committee Chairs:
 - a. **Membership: Charles, No new members.**
 - b. **Field Trip chair: John. Not in attendance. Field trips are in the newsletter.**
 - c. **Fun: Tailgate Show. Blaze not in attendance.**
 - d. **Casino Night: Frank. Not discussed.**
 - e. **Curious Forge Plaque: David. Not discussed.**
6. New Business:
 - a. **Club Paradise Scholarships: Two \$250 scholarships awarded by ticket draw at picnic. John Dolman and Gwen Fissel.**
 - b. **Rich Cross: Specimen Camera (purchased)**
 - c. **GV Chamber of Commerce: Joining decision. "Joined"**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Submitted by: Christie Harris (acting secretary). Typed by C. Lindquist.

NEVADA COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

General Membership Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

The NCGMS General meeting was held at the Grange Building, Grass Valley, CA. 95945

President Dennis Geare called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Members present: 24 Guests: 4

There was no news from the Membership Chairman.

President Dennis gave a presentation plaque to Frank Van Hecke (which is shown below).

Frank Van Hecke, Show Chairman, gave a report on the status of the upcoming October gem show. Prices have gone to \$4.00 for admission and parking is free on the fair grounds. Discussion about the condition of the table covers took place and we are looking at replacing them. Debe Taylor is working on this.

Dan Chaplin brought posters for the show that need to be put up around the area to promote the show. Lots of discussion about where to put the posters and postcards. They looked very nice. Folks were encouraged to take some and distribute them. Folks were encouraged to sign up for various shifts during the run of the

show. We need workers!

Frank reported that seven display cases, previously stored in the club trailer, were damaged over the winter when the ceiling vent leaked. There was a lot of water damage, they salvaged what they could.

No report on Field Trips as John Dolman was not present.

Beverly Glenn thanked those who worked with her co-worker's son who came to the annual picnic. She also asked if anyone might have some larger rocks they would be willing to donate to the Grange to help shore up the parking lot. There was a lot of water runoff during the winter months.

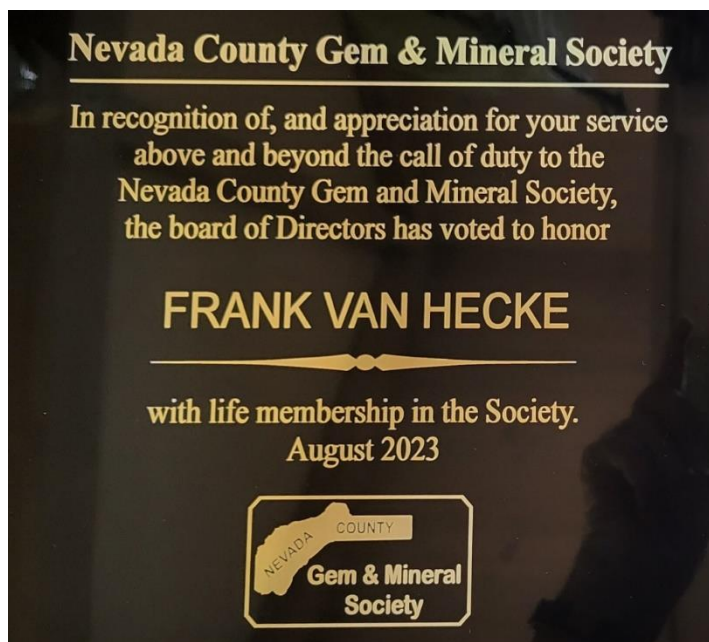
Polly Marie reported that the scholarships to be given for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$1,000 for a Sierra College student and \$500 for a high school graduate in the county. Preferences for someone interested in Geology or the Sciences.

Frank gave a very interesting program on Impactites. He had a lot of samples to show and had everyone come up to see them up close once he was done. Very interesting!

Raffle made \$41.00 this evening.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 pm.

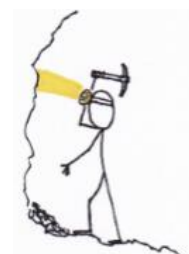
Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Baker (acting secretary)



Field Trip Information from John Dolman

A field trip has been cancelled: due to -NO CONTACTS! Trip was to dig for Argillite near Washington, CA.

NCGMS 2023 Field Trips (please double check before the trip to ensure it is still planned):



Summer is here it seems, access is opening up after the great winter, get out there and get some rocks!!

Other members are considering putting on additional local trips this summer, and possible long range multi-day fall trips, stay tuned. . . .

2023 TRIPS	HOST
Sept. 9 - Red Dumortierite. New Hogan Lake near boat ramp at Acorn Campground (Details Below)	John Dolman
Sept 15-17: Fallon, NV (Co-Op Trip) (Writeup below)	Co-Op (John)
Sept 23-24: South of Markleeville (Writeup Below)	John Dolman
Sept 28—Oct 1 - OPAZ MT. & DUGWAY GEODE BEDS (Co-Op Trip) (Writeup below)	John Dolman
Oct 7 — Oct 9 – Duck Flat (Writeup below)	John Dolman

From John: Red Dumortierite trip Sep. 9 New Hogan lake bed: **lake level permitting!**

A “CO-OP MEMBER” FIELD TRIP TO FALLON NV

- 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 and sign out with the field trip leader.
- CO-OP website has information: www.ourfieldtrips.org (Password is needed).
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- All non-CFMS members are required to contact the Field Trip Leader before a field trip for any insurance requirements.

TRIP LOCATION – South of Fallon, NV

WHEN – Sep. 15,16,17, 2023

SPONSOR CLUB – El Dorado & Nevada County Mineral and Gem

Leader and Contact Information: John Dolman.

MEMBER'S GUESTS – Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Wonderstone, Selenite, Chalcedony Orbs.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE – On Sep.15, at 8:00 am., Day one meet the leader off of US-Route 50, 11 mi. South of Fallon, NV. at Grimes Point Archaeological site 8:00 am., sharp!

On Sep.16 & 17th, Day 2 & 3, meet the leader at the same spot as day one at 8:00 am. A 4 X 4 is needed this day for the Selenite & or Chalcedony orbs!

MEET – South of Fallon, NV. at Grimes Point Archaeological site 8:00 am., sharp!

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP – US-Route 50, 11 mi. South of Fallon, NV.

VEHICLE REQ'S – 4 X 4 is best.

CAMP/FACILITIES – Vault toilets at Grimes Point, squirrel=5"rnd. X 8" deep holes in the field areas.

TOOLS – hard rock type= Safety glasses, leather gloves, chisels, 3 lb hammer, scoop screens, classifier screens, buckets, bags.

SAFETY CONCERNS – The risk of encountering Rattlesnakes is real but very low. And personal falls are more possible.

CLIMATE/WEATHER – Check weather beforehand could be very warm to hot. Bring at least one gallon of water pre-day for each person, lunch, and snacks

CLOTHING – Dress in layers, bring sunscreen.

OTHER REMARKS – If you plan to attend, you must contact the field trip leader, John Dolman, before Sep. 12, 2023.

FEES – None

Field Trip for Quartz crystals in Rhyolite, Silver Ore, and Sulfur crystals, Agate, Jasper

WHERE: HWY 89 @ HWY 4 South of Markleville, CA

WHEN: Sep. 23-24, 2023 8:00 am.

SPONSORING SOCIETY: EL DORADO MINERAL AND GEM, Nevada gem and mineral society

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: Meet a bit up from the Jct. of HWY 89, and HWY 4. Follow Leader to sites. Camping in a saddle before the crystal site.

FIELD TRIP LEADER: John Dolman, Call before Sep. 20

VEHICLE REQ'D : 4 X 4

CAMP FACILITIES: Rustic cabins at Saronsons Resort off HWY-89 before the junction. I will be Dry camping below the dig site!

TOOLS: Buckets, flat chisels, pick, pry bar, rock pick, a popup or 10'X10' with tarp.

OTHER : Bring plenty of water, your lunch, and snacks. Dress in layers, wide brim hat, and safety glasses

SAFETY: The risk of encountering rattlesnakes is real, but Personal falls are more likely.

A FIELD TRIP to Duck Flat, Nevada

(This was in last month's bulletin, a date has now been set)

WHEN: Oct. 7, 8, 9, 2023.

COLLECTION MATERIAL: Tuledad Agate, Petrified Wood, Chalcedony, types of Obsidian, yard rocks

TRIP LOCATION: Duck Lake, NV

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE: Vehicle Access; Parking - 5, 2-wheel drive, parking on the dirt access road. Collection or View site - 6, 1/4 to 1/2 mile with trails on hillsides, or through brush and creek beds

SPONSOR: El Dorado/Nevada County/Paradise Clubs

MEMBERS GUESTS: Allowed

LEADER CONTACT INFO: John Dolman

MEET: Duck lake loop road campsite is five miles off Highway 447. A Left turn-off of County road # 447.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMPSITE: I-80 east of Sparks NV, exit goes northbound from Wadsworth, NV, on county road # 447- Then turn left. On, Duck Lake road, which is about 130 miles north of Wadsworth, NV, look for the orange plate at the turn for Duck lake road.

VEHICLE REQ: Most 2-wheel drive

FACILITIES: Nearest motel to the site is in Cedarville-35 miles. Dry camping near the site.

TOOLS: Safety glasses, rock pick, shovel, hammer, pry bar, buckets, bags

SAFETY CONCERNS: Snakes, high desert critters, with no facilities

CLIMATE / WEATHER: warm, windy, showers, cool-cold

OTHER REMARKS: Lots of possibilities in this area-Davis creek, Cedarville, Black rock desert, Lost Creek area, Virgin Valley.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: From campsite departure time 8 am each day.

**A “CO-OP MEMBER” and “CFMS NORTH” FIELD TRIP TO
TOPAZ MT. & DUGWAY GEODE BEDS Sept 28-Oct 1.
Sponsored by Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society**

- 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 rock hounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information
- CFMS members area for field trips (Password is needed).
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- The use of intoxicating substances during the effective hours of this field trip are expressly prohibited.

TRIP LOCATION: Topaz Mt. and Dugway Geode Beds, North West of Delta, Utah.

Vehicle access & parking : # 3 at Topaz Mt. & Dugway geode beds. - Good for most vehicles and RV's, no specific handicap parking at Topaz Mt. and Dugway geode beds.

Collection or View Site: From a # 3 at the base of the Mt. to a # 7 at the Red Beryl site, ½ mile or more to site, difficult trails and ravines or water crossings. A # 4 at Dugway geode beds, flat ground, unpaved sections, handicap access with some help.

WHEN: September 28 through October 1. This is a repeating site tour; you may show up and leave at any time during these 4 days. See schedule for optimum arrival dates.

MEMBER'S GUESTS: This is a public collecting area and anybody may camp and collect at the area concurrent with our activities. Those who choose to make the escorted trip to the Red Beryl site and convoy with us to the Dugway Geode Beds must sign the waiver.

COLLECTION MATERIAL: Topaz Crystals, Bixbite (Red Beryl), Pseudobrookite crystals, Hematite crystals, and Geodes.

LEADER & CONTACT INFO: Please contact ahead of time: Gene Doyle, CO-OP & Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip Leader, Text or leave message, Cell (408) 605-9457, Email eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net. Jim Barton, CFMS-N, Home 916-773-0458, Cell (916) 847-7321, Email geologist1@surewest.net. If you are interested in this field trip Gene Doyle will email you a more detailed write up upon request.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: We will be meeting at 0900 hours on Thursday September 28 at the Topaz Mountain camp site and drive to Dugway Geode Beds (about an 45 minutes) for the dig. Friday and Saturday will be Topaz Mountain, with Thursday and Sunday at Dugway Geodes.

MEET: Gene Doyle will have a dark blue Toyota 4Runner camped at a suitable location near the entrance to the “cove” of Topaz Mt each morning before 9am on the September 28 through October 1 . Look for the RRR signs at the turn off Hwy 174 and the “Roseville Rock Rollers” sign on the side of the 4Runner at the meeting area.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP: General directions are: Catch Highway 50 East from Sacramento to Fallon, Nevada then to Ely, NV. Follow 50/6 East from Ely to Delta, UT. Turn north on 6 just East of Delta, UT, left on Brush Highway (Hwy 174),

follow signs to the Intermountain Powerhouse, a coal fired power plant seen on the horizon. Continue on the road passed the powerhouse, you will be on a good paved road for approximately 40 minutes to the sign posted to Topaz Mt. Collection Area, a BLM controlled area. I will stake the dirt roads into the site with "RRR" signs. Those staying in Delta may wish to meet and convoy together to "the cove".

VEHICLE REQ'S: A high clearance or 4x4 vehicle at the red beryl site. It is recommended to have a high clearance vehicle at the Dugway site. A 2 wheel drive vehicles should make it to the camp site without a problem

CAMP/FACILITIES: This camp site is primitive. No services of any kind. If you are going to camp, you will need to be fully self contained and equipped.

TOOLS: Wide and narrow cold chisels, along with a 3 or 4 pound hand sledge are necessary. A standard rock pick and narrow screwdriver and a coat hanger or a stiff wire with a hook bent on the end. A heavy full size sledge hammers and pry bars. A 1/4 inch and 1/8 inch screen (stackable classifiers).

A standard shovel and garden rake or hand rake, and rock pick. A roll of toilet paper and disposable plastic containers to put specimens in.

SAFETY CONCERNS: There are scorpions, snakes, and other common desert animals in the area. Careful, rubble and boulders are everywhere so you must be very aware of those climbing or working up hill and below you. Be prepared at any moment to heed their warnings regarding falling rock or rubble. In turn, you must be very aware of those below you and not cause wasting or rock slides.

Due to the potential for danger, we will not be escorting young people under 18 years of age into the Red Beryl area. Rhyolite dust is primarily silica dust and it would be wise to bring a dust mask if screening material.

CLIMATE/WEATHER: The weather at Topaz Mt. is rarely perfect! The average high at the end of September is 74 degrees, with an average low of 45.

CLOTHING: Weather forecasts will dictate the necessary clothing. Full pants, closed shoes, gloves, and hat are strongly recommended.

NOTE: This is not the full field trip write-up. Please contact the Field Trip Leader, Gene Doyle, for the full write -up if you're not scared by now about all those scorpions and stuff and you really want to go on this field trip!

CFMS Updates & Shows (<https://www.cfmsinc.org/>)



2023 CFMS Shows

2023 CFMS Shows	
<p>August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Contact: (626) 260-7239 Website: https://pasadenalapidary.org</p>	<p>September 16-17, 2023 – Monterey, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Monterey Fairgrounds, Monterey, CA Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM Contact: (831) 801-5887, susieharlow@gmail.com Website: http://cvgms.rocks</p>

<p>October 7-8, 2023 – Grass Valley, CA -- <u>OUR SHOW!!</u></p> <p>Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society</p> <p>Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley 95949 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM 7th Annual Earth’s Treasurers Show: 25+ vendors, gem and mineral exhibits, Gold panning, lapidary arts demonstrations. Kids Corner, food and ice cream trucks. Admissions – Adults \$4, Children ages 12 and under free with a paid adult, Military with an “active military” I.D. Free, FREE PARKING Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net</p>	<p>October 8, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society 123 W. Alvarado St. (show on street a& in parking lot), Fallbrook CA 92028 Hours: 9 AM – 4 PM Rock Fallbrook! Over 40 mineral gemstone, jewelry and fossil vendors at the annual Fallbrook Festival of Gems & Minerals. Gem ID, Bargain Booth, Wheel of Fortune, kids activities, food booth, and a GIANT raffle of some gorgeous items. Free admission and free parking. Vendor applications due August 1, 2023. Email info@fgms.org if you’re interested. Contact:(760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org Website: http://www.fgms.org</p>
<p>October 14-15, 2023 – Redwood City, CA Peninsula Gem and Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net Website: http://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org</p>	<p>October 28-29, 2023 – San Diego, CA San Diego Mineral & Gem Society Liberty Station Conference Center/Point Loma Nazarene University, 2660 Lanir, San Diego, CA 92106 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Contact: luannz@att.net Website: http://SDMG.org</p>
<p>October 28-29, 2023 – Orange, CA American Opal Society Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM- 5 PM 53rd Annual Opal, Gem & Jewelry Show Rough & cut opals and gemstones, jewelry, supplies. Hugh drawing. Free demonstrations. Contact: (714) 501-9959, info@opalsociety.org Website: http://opalsociety.org</p>	<p>November 3, 4 & 5, 2023 – Eureka, CA Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society 68th Annual Show 3750 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503 Hours: Friday 9 AM – 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM Live Demonstrations, Games for the kids, Geode Cutting, Vendors with Gemstones, Rocks, Lapidary Tools & Equipment, Fossils and Jewelry</p>
<p>November 18-19, 2023 – Lakeside, CA El Cajon Valley Rock Round Up! El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society 12584 Mapleview St., Lakeside, CA 92040 Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM Contact: (619) 277-4981, ecvgms@gmail.com Website: http://ecvgms.org</p>	<p>Check websites or call to ensure shows and field trips are still planned during the pandemic (cancelled shows have been removed or not listed here – also, watch the CFMS listings closely).</p> <p>Also, “Google” the words “oregon gem and mineral society shows”: many shows (closer than the SoCal shows – <u>and no state tax</u>) show up. Nationally: http://www.amfed.org/fed_shows.htm</p>

Ramona California Rockhound Helps Residents Find Gems On Their Property

Originally in the San Diego Tribune, October, 2022, adapted for NCGMS Newsletter

Practically every homeowner in Ramona has rocks on their property. And some of these small stones could potentially be a source of income, according to resident Joe Cahak.

A senior test engineer at Samsung Electronics, Cahak's hobby is rockhounding. An avid hiker, Cahak knows the backcountry well. He can often be found searching the tops of hills and trails and scouring boulder outcroppings for unusual rock specimens.

Ramona has a rich history of gemstones and mining, which is discussed in historical books by local authors, he said.

Black, green and rubellite tourmaline, small crystals, garnets, epidote, spessartines, and rose and smokey quartz are among the specimen rocks often found in Ramona. Many of the rocks have no monetary value, but are still pretty and fun to collect, he said.

Cahak believes he has found a way to continue his hobby, share it with friends and allow local landowners to make some extra spending money.

"First, if someone thinks they have an old mining claim or something of significance on their property, I will go over the area for free and let them know what they have," he said.

The evaluations can range from "nothing is really here," to believing a site would be suitable for small dig parties to discovering a potential mining claim, he said.

Although he hasn't found any potential mining claims yet, Cahak said he believes there could be some locations either undiscovered or that property owners are aware of but have no idea how to promote.



Joe Cahak, left, points out some unusual rocks to Ramona Ranch Winery owner Micole Moore. (Photo courtesy Ramona Ranch Winery)



An epidote crystal from a recent private party dig. (Photo courtesy Joe Cahak)

Teri Kerns and Micole Moore recently invited Cahak to explore their Ramona Ranch Winery property off Highway 78. They wanted to learn more about the rocks on their vineyards.

"Our future goal is a self-guided natural walk for our guests to enjoy the beautiful views, interesting topography and more of the land we are lucky enough to be the stewards of," Kerns said.

Led by Cahak, Kerns and Moore toured the property with their friends Scott and Susan Toothacre and Lisa Barnett.

Although no gemstones were found, Kerns said Cahak was able to point out the different kinds of rocks, explain their geological history and point out some interesting finds.

"He was so passionate and full of information," Kerns said. "He's a wealth of knowledge, it was a lot of fun, and he increased our awareness of what is here."

After her friend’s tour, Barnett and her family also invited Cahak to their property. They expected they would have similar findings, and that was the case.

“We found we’re not going to be rich,” Barnett said with a laugh.

While they had some “fun, pretty rocks,” they had nothing valuable or she said.

“It’s still worth it for folks just to see what is on their land, and overall, it for people to know what types of rocks are in the area,” Barnett said.

In cases where Cahak believes there might be enough rocks or minerals interest, he is organizing small, private party digs for the landowner.

Each participant pays a small fee. Cahak said he works with local dealers miners, and that everyone is aware that they have no further access to site once the dig is complete.

Property owners should note that each participant is allowed to keep whatever they find while on a dig. Diggers are chosen from among his friends and acquaintances that might be interested.

“I can take care of all the details, including property access, liability issues, organizing the participants and collecting the fees for the owners,” he said.

The digs aren’t disclosed to the public unless the property owner is okay with it, he said.



From left, Micole Moore, Teri Kerns and Joe Cahak prepare to explore Ramona Ranch Winery for rock specimens. (Photo courtesy Ramona Ranch Winery)

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Hessonite garnet found locally by Joe Cahak. (Photo courtesy Joe Cahak)

“I respect the owners and their property,” the Ramona resident said.

Cahak said he uses no heavy equipment for his digs, and participants try to disturb the area as little as possible.

“We only allow six to eight people per dig and we carpool to the area. We’re so quiet our last landowner forgot we were there,” he said.

On one of his last group digs several months ago, Cahak used a weed-eater to trim some of the area so it would be easier to see the ground. Because of the lack of recent rains, group members didn’t even have to do much digging to discover their finds.

“I found almost a pound of materials,” he said, noting that axinite and low quality hessonite garnets were among his finds.

Cahak said no one is getting rich off the digs.

“The digs are only once a month or every other month and are small scale, so the landowner isn’t making a ton of money. And I great salary —I’m not doing this for the money, but for the fun adventure,” he said.

Because access to the property owners is the hardest part of organizing a dig, Cahak is eager to get the word out.

“We have so many local claims all abandoned on private property just sitting,” he said. “The digs are so much fun. The landowner gets a little bit of money. Everyone is happy and it’s a win/win for everyone.”



A small group of rockhounds on a recent private party dig organized by Joe Cahak. (Photo courtesy Joe Cahak)

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Cahak, who plans to retire in a couple of years, recently purchased both a facet machine and a cab machine — tools used for gem cutting and shaping rocks — as yet another way to have fun with his hobby.

After retirement, he said he also looks forward to having more time to hike the local hills and continue his search for unusual finds.

Cahak’s Facebook group for other rockhounds has more than 150 members. He frequently posts information on general and local geology, minerals, local mines, gem sites and gemstones. Members can also post photos of their own finds for identification.

He also credits the site with helping him find like-minded friends in the area to hike with and search for rocks and gemstones. Cahak has been interested in rock hunting since at least age 10, when he and his best friend used to try and find what they could in Wisconsin.



Joe Cahak’s clothing looks a little worse for wear after a recent hike. (Courtesy Joe Cahak)

He also uses the site to describe and, in some cases, actively promote the many local mines in the area. He said that by making information about the mines public and writing up their history, there may be renewed interest in mining them and showcasing local gems.

“I love sharing the adventure of rockhounding and it’s a great way for families to spend time together,” he said.

He said he’s hoping more landowners contact him.

“I’m itching to get out and go prospecting,” he said.

Anyone can join Cahak’s Facebook group, Ramona Rocks and Minerals, to learn more. Landowners can also email Cahak at starsgalore@cox.net .

Does Anybody Read this Stuff?

Your Newsletter Staff (Blaze and Charles) are curious about our readership. If you have read this far, Please send us a quick note to newsletter@ncgms.org.

Thank You!

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

P.O. Box 1686, Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686

2023 Officers

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VICE PRESIDENT	Eric Trygg
SECRETARY	John Dolman
TREASURER	Sheila Baker
DIRECTORS	Christie Harris Polly Marie Blaze Baker

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SHOW ORGANIZER	Frank Van Hecke	
SUNSHINE	Lori Woodhall	
TREK LEADER (Field Trips)	John Dolman	
WEBMASTER	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society meets monthly with few exceptions. Membership is informed of exceptions on the website, at meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

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

Executive Committee Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Golden Empire Grange Building, 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

NCG&MS is a non-profit organization with the following objectives:

Membership Information

- To promote the study of mineralogy, geology & 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

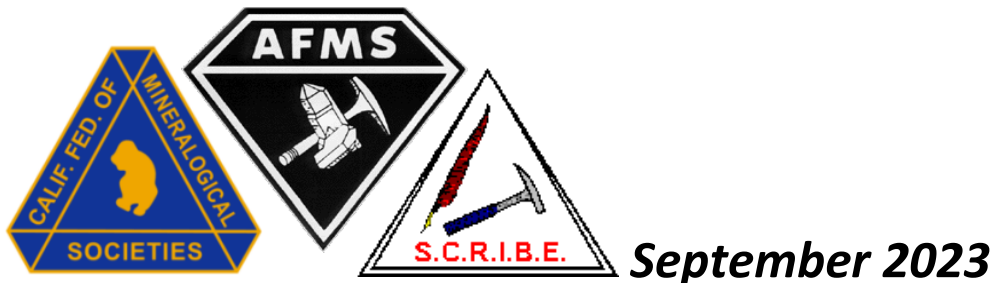
Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$25.00 for singles and \$30.00 for families. *Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email* For information or an application, email our Membership Chairperson Charlie Lindquist at gvrnner99@yahoo.com

Check out our website at: <https://www.ncgms.org>





First Class Mail



September General Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2023. 7:00 PM

Program: *Dinosaurs, presented by Fran Van Hecke and Gwen Fissel.*

Board Meeting (In Person. All are welcome!). 6:00.

Meeting: First Tuesdays Monthly at 7:00 p.m.

(no meeting in July - Picnic)

**Golden Empire Grange Guild
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley**

✂ Bring a Friend! ✂

2023 Membership dues
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