



Nuggets From The Prez

Happy New Year! Winter has finally come to Nevada County after a protracted and storybook fall season, one of the best I can remember. The Christmas Party was fun, first I was ever able to fully attend. The food was great, and 'Twas Night Before Christmas gift exchange was a hoot! Thank you to decorators, everyone who contributed potluck, and to members who went the extra mile making sure the meats/drinks/utensils were supplied, you made it a great time!

I have been thinking a lot about gratitude in general and realized it also applies to NCGMS. It occurred to me I had been complaining about various aspects of the club. But in reality we are generally in good shape. We are lucky, we survived the COVID-19 pandemic in good shape while other clubs closed their doors. NCGMS is financially sound, has good infrastructure (a great relationship with the Grange/well-stocked event trailer/well supplied with materials to support events in storage), a leader in the community providing an annual show and a juniors program, a variety of events (more coming), and a have a long legacy and clear structure with bylaws.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2024. Lori Woodhall (2024 Vice President and past President) is exited to bring new programs to monthly club meetings. Also, a new 75" TV has been purchased and Charlie Lindquist (membership chair and

webmaster) is working on the cabinet and connections. Hopefully it will be ready by February and for future meetings. The TV will be mounted on the wall opposite the kitchen. We will begin to face seating that direction at the January meeting. It will also be more polite to guest speakers not having people access bathrooms behind them while speaking.

A robust set of field trips planned by John Dolman (Trek Leader) are on tap, plus a few new short 1-day, easy, and weekday trips are in the works. I joined John on a pre-trip to the Big X Mountain area on Friday December 15th and came away with nice crystals. I'll bring them to the January meeting, John may bring some examples too. Hopefully the next day he continued along the pocket I dug and got even more, I just ran out of time and energy to dig further (I just know more were hiding under that big quartz boulder)!

Unfortunately our January meeting falls on the 2nd and attendance may be hard. The board meeting will happen as planned, and the general meeting following – bring examples of minerals you found on field trips to share and get us excited for 2024! Unfortunately a few NCGMS members are working on their own health challenges and have not been able to make meetings lately. Our thoughts are with you and wish you

speedy recovery with better health in 2024.

Additional opportunities include: Frank Van Hecke (CFMS and Show Chair) is considering having an auction at the March meeting, details TBD; Dan Chapin set up lapidary equipment at his home and is offering opportunities for use to NCGMS members; Edwina Swenson (director and past Pres) is offering soapstone carving classes.

I'm working at a few things to support the club this year and into the future. As I noted in the last newsletter, additional 1-day/local/easy/weekday trips are planned. The first will be an opportunity during Earth Week in April to tour vernal pools and see the overall geological setting at Beale AFB. I'm looking at May 17th for a possible tailgate swap at the Banner Grange on McCourtney road – parking/access is very easy. Will reach out to them after the New Year and see if they will let us do it the same way they do their swap meet (\$12 per booth).

I'm also reaching out to contacts I have (or cold calling) to mines in Allegheny (Original 16:1 and the Oriental), Yuba County Water Agency, and museums to see if additional opportunities for NCGMS are available.

Rich Cross will be taking over the newsletter. Thank you for that! He has a background that will make him an excellent newsletter editor. I took it over January 2020 not expecting COVID to hit, and for a while it was all we had as a club. And thanks to Charlie taking on the newsletter when I'm away. A reminder to Board Members and Chairpeople: Support Rich by getting monthly newsletter contributions to him the 15th, allowing

him to get it to webmaster/ mailing by the 20th every month.

I'd like to drive a few other outcomes for 2024 to include development of a President's continuity binder anchored by the NCGMS bylaws. Foster more club participation and volunteership (hoping more robust programs and new club opportunities will do the trick), and I'm looking for ideas to boost the juniors programs. Notable, legacy members like Charlie and newer members like myself originally came to the club because this was a great family program, and we stayed. Also, none of us are getting any younger. We saw the Sutter Buttes Club close last year, they were just getting too old to carry on. We can't let this happen to NCGMS, it provides such a unique community opportunity.

And last, presently I do not plan a Tucson run this year, but will do a quick Quartzite run mid-January after rockhounding with some friends in AZ. If you want me to look for something while there, let me know at the January meeting.

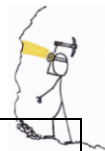
Thank you for trusting me and other newly-elected board members to carry the NCGMS torch in 2024. We have a great mix of experience to include three past presidents and new members bringing fresh viewpoints.

Sorry for such a long "Nuggets From The Prez" it is my first, and there is just so much new stuff going on, I couldn't resist! Will keep it to one page in the future.

See you in January!

-Blaze Baker

NCGMS 2024 Field Trips *(please double check before the trip to ensure it is still planned):*



2024 Proposed Trips		HOST
Nov/Dec – TBD – Big X Mtn for smoky quartz crystals – contact John if you wish to go!		John Dolman
Jan 27	Colfax petrified wood & other river rocks	
Feb 3	CO-OP trip meeting	
Mar 2	Big X area	
Mar 23	Colfax rain\snow replacement date	
Apr 13	Rhodonite Sawmill peak	
Apr 20-22	Petersen Mountain	
April 23/24/25 (date TBD) Beale AFB Vernal Pool /ecology tour		Blaze Baker
Apr 26-28	Chinese Camp\Bagby	
May 13	Traverse Creek	
May 24-25	Ford Point area	
Jun 15-16	Markleeville area	
Jun 22-23	Nevada Lapis	
Jul 4-6	Crystal Peak	
July 11	Devil’s Postpile (Take National Forest), possible gold panning	Blaze Baker
Jul 18-21	Davis Creek	
Aug 30-31	Bagby	
Sep 1-2	Bagby	
Oct 11-14	Tuledad	
Nov 28-30	Big X area or Dec 7/14/21/28 (weather replacement dates)	

Proposed Trips for 2024:

Shorter, easy, weekday, and local trips are being planned - if you have any ideas please share them with the club.... At present, Blaze has offered to lead a couple trips to include weekday trips in 2024:

The vernal pool/wildflower tour and general soils/geology of Beale Air Force Base – April/Earth Week.
 Note: for that trip, base access requires submission of SSN, Driver’s Lic # a week ahead for Security Forces approval (you need a clean record) and a Real ID to access base, access would only be from the Wheatland Gate on the south side. The benefit is little walking/flat ground, a surrey (bus or van) would be provided by Beale AFB for the tour at no cost, and as a botanist Blaze is an expert on the plants and natural history of the base. If the access requirements are disagreeable, we can change the trip to Beale Falls in Spenceville Wildlife area which is open to the public and a closer drive – but a much longer hike.

Blaze is reaching out to the new owners of the Original 16:1 Mine in Alleghany to see if they would offer a mine tour, and hopefully at least a surface pick for some “Blue Jay” Mariposite and then a mine museum visit. Already made contact with Kenton Mine Lodge/Oriental Mine and the Yuba County Water Agency (waiting). Also, he will reach out to the North Star Mine Museum and see if we can do a private tour. Hopefully others can work with Sierra College for a natural history museum tour in the fall.

November Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 1907 hr

Guests: 2 Members 27

Treasurer's Report: given and accepted.

1. Motion I: Made by the Board to accept new board members for 2024.
 - a. Seconded By: Secretary-John Dolman
 - b. Vote Carried 24 yes, 4 No.
2. Correspondence: None
3. Motion II: To spend \$1.2k on a wide-screen monitor, and a storage cabinet for program viewing at meetings.
 - a. Seconded By: Christie Harris
 - b. Vote Carried 24 Yes 2 No
4. Break: 1927 hr
5. Field trip request of Info. by Eric and John. A suggestion sheet was passed out & collected. John is expecting to get more at the next meeting on 12/5/2023.

The meeting adjourned at: 2030 hr

Respectfully submitted

John Dolman, Secretary

November General Meeting Minutes

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Respectfully submitted

John Dolman, Secretary





Meet Your new Board and Officers!

President: Blaze Baker

Vice President: Lori Woodhall

Secretary: Sheila Baker

Treasurer: Mike Field

Directors: Eric Trygg, Cathy Field, Edwina Swenson

A Rockhound's Tools

This is the equipment used by an experienced rockhound in Nevada County. Which are you using? (Identification key on next page.)



Key to Rockhounding Tools:

1. knee pads
2. belt hoop – holds hammer or garden claw hands-free, for hiking
3. squat bucket – as shown, or 3 gallon plastic. Five gallon buckets tip easily.
4. knee pad – for those of us with no cartilage remaining, or sitting in wet conditions.
5. nail pry bar – for splitting rocks
6. pill container – with ziplocs for holding smaller mineral specimens. Also, old socks.
7. safety glasses – quartz is sharp! Use a full face shield when splitting big cobbles.
8. big whacker – three or five pound hammers persuade rocks to open up.
9. bricklayer’s hammer – the wedge is useful for splitting rocks like shale.
10. garden claw – my most-utilized tool, every trip, for quick scraping of the ground.
11. chisels – have several sizes in your collection.
12. brushes – wire and plastic, for gradually removing surface dirt, and cleaning afterwards.
13. dental scythe – great scraping tool for quartz and other hard minerals.
14. mechanic’s gloves – designed for protection and manipulating small objects.
15. pick axe – when you’re ready to move some rocky ground out of your way. Shovels break.
16. mask – deadly toxins do exist in our soils, including Valley Fever, Tularemia, and asbestos.
17. clippers – sometimes you’ll need to move brush or roots out of your way.
18. McLeod – essentially a big rake, this is another overlooked, but really useful tool. Don’t lift the dirt, pull it out of the way instead!
19. old sheet or tarp – for laying out your finds and high grading. Also good for capturing small minerals which fall out of larger chunks as you split them open.

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

2024 CFMS Shows



<p>January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA Tule Gem and Mineral Society Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM 2024 Gemboree Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson, (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com Website: http://www.tulegem.com</p>	<p>February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA Antioch Lapidary Club Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10-5 Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auctions, Grab Bags, Exhibits and hands on projects for kids. Admission \$6.00, Children 12 & under, scouts in uniform and Active Military Free. \$1.00 off admission with show flyer. Contact: (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com Website: http://antiochlapidaryclub.com</p>
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<p>February 24-25, 2024 – Vallejo, CA Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589 Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM Vallejo Gem and Mineral Show: We host vendors offering gems, geodes, fossils, raw rocks and minerals, carved stone animals, beads, findings and minerals from around the globe. The Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society invites you to discover lapidary and related crafts through our educational displays and live demonstrations. Contact: (415) 254-1506, dduhvnvgms@gmail.com Website: https://vjgems.com</p>	<p>April 13-14, 2024 – Mariposa, CA Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338 Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM We'll have a great selection of vendors with all sorts of gems, minerals, fossils, rough lapidary material and many other rock-related items, a fabulous raffle, silent auction, geode cutting, and, of course, food... Website: http://mariposagemclub.org</p>
<p>April 13-14, 2024 – Placerville, CA El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA Hours: Saturday 10 AM -5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org Website: http://edcmgs.org</p>	<p>March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM-4PM Dealers and exhibits, demos, gold panning, kids activities, raffle & silent auctions, Country Store an plant sale, free resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 60+ years. Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org Website: http://www.vgms.org</p>
<p>March 23-24, 2024 – Angeles Camp, CA Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society 2465 Gun Club Rd., Angeles Camp CA 95222 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Annual Calaveras Gem and Mineral Show: Adults \$5.00, Children under 12 FREE with paying adult. Amazing displays, vendors and demonstrations, silent auction, Fun and interesting activities for children. Treasure Hunt, Door Prizes! Food on sit. FREE PARKING. Great Fun. Contact: (209) 736-4892, dbrooks49@att.net Website: http://CalaverasGemandMineral.net</p>	<p>May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club 2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536 Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM AVGMC Rock, Jewelry and Gem Show. Parking and Admission are free. Plenty of vendors, displays and activities for the whole family. Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com</p>
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October 2024, Date TBD Grass Valley CA

Our Show!

Also, "Google" the words "Oregon gem and mineral society shows":
many shows (closer than the SoCal shows – and no state tax) show up.

Nationally: http://www.amfed.org/fed_shows.htm

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

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

2024 Officers

PRESIDENT	Blaze Baker
VICE PRESIDENT	Lori Woodhall
SECRETARY	Sheila Baker
TREASURER	Mike Field
DIRECTORS	Eric Trygg Edwina Swenson Cathy Field

**(Call, Text, or Email, no voicemail)*

2024 Committee Chairpersons

CLUB PICNIC	Lori Woodhall	
FEDERATION DIRECTOR	Frank Van Hecke	
HISTORIAN	Beverly Glenn	
HOSPITALITY	Christie Harris	
JUNIOR PROGRAM	Julie DeHollander Cheryl Hendrickson	
LIBRARIAN	Beverly Glenn	
MEMBERSHIP	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Rich Cross	
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
REFRESHMENTS	Monthly Birthday Honorees	
SCHOLARSHIP	Polly Marie	
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:

- 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

Membership Information

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 gvranner99@yahoo.com

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

KNOW YOUR MINERALS



smbc-comics.com

It is Time to Renew Your NCG&MS Membership for 2024!

Yes, folks, it's that time again.

Your membership dues pay for a number of things, including dues to the AMFS, the CFMS, Insurance for field trips and other club activities, rental for our meeting hall, and help to produce (and mail) the newsletter. We all get a lot for such a small amount!

Please fill out the form below, and along with a check please send to our Post Office Box:

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Membership Chair
P.O Box 1686
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686

Dues are due by March 1, 2024.

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society (NCGMS) 2023 Membership Renewal Form

Please provide Name, and the following information if anything has changed:

Name(s): _____

Address (Street, City, ZIP): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

(Note: Email Address will be part of the club roster unless omission is requested).

Type of Membership (check one):

Adult 18 Years or Older: \$25.00 per year.

Family (one address): \$30.00 per year.

If you wish to receive newsletter by Email only, deduct \$5.00 from normal membership dues.

I wish to receive my newsletter by email and have entered an Email address.

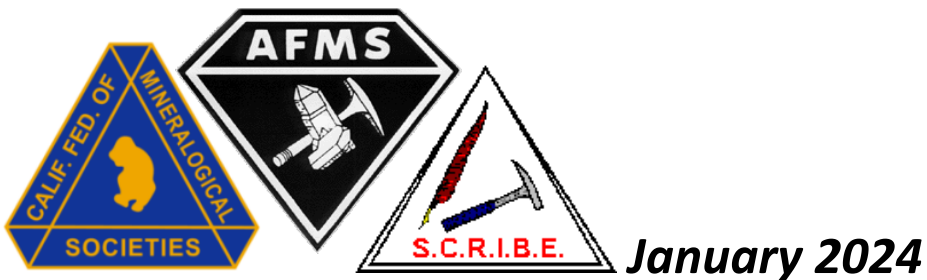
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society (NCGMS) is a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701f of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Contributions made to NCGMS are NOT deductible for tax purposes.





Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 1686
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686

First Class Mail



General Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Program: *An Armchair Tour of a Private Gem and Mineral Museum*; plus bring any nice rocks you found last year to share with fellow members!

Meetings Monthly First Tuesdays

Board Meeting (All are welcome!) 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting and program at 7:00 p.m.

(no meeting in July - Picnic)

Golden Empire Grange Guild

11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

Bring a Friend!

2024 Membership dues

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. Dues are annual and payable in January.