

Rock Writings

February, 2024

Newsletter of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Vol. 57, #2

Nuggets From The Prez

Well, 2024 is moving on and before we know it Valentine's Day will be upon us. It seems to me rockhounds and lapidary-skilled people are uniquely poised to provide beautiful and thoughtful gifts to your special someone!

I got an early head start on 2024's rockhounding, spending 10 days in Arizona: two weekends in Quartzite shopping and making new contacts (not doing 2024 Tucson) and during the week rockhounding out of Queen Valley in the Mineral Mountains with friends. We visited old mines and mine dumps, picked at outcrops, ran around on impressive Polaris machines whizzing past saguaros going places no jeep could reach.

I got nice specimens of small clear fluorite (unfortunately no UV) mixed with Pb/Z/Ag/Cu ore and barite, etc. Wild mineralization in that country. We also collected copper minerals/chrysocolla, "interesting" rocks, and hundreds of pounds of Queen Valley marble.

I found most of what I was looking for and what friends had asked for in Quartzite at decent prices. Seems either the highly inflated prices I saw at Tucson last year were down, or Quartzite is just a lower rent

district. I heard vendors complain they were not coming back to quartzite due to dust, and others not going back to Tucson due to high vending costs. From what I saw, Quartzite is gaining a lot of momentum and growing significantly.



For my collection I picked up a nice piece of credite w/fluorite from Mexico, another piece of wavellite from AR (and a flat to

resell), a large and special piece of grape agate from Indonesia, and a large cabinet specimen of Indian gyrolite.

Collected and bought, I came back with over 1,000 pounds of rocks.

But I did not bring back the 48" rock saw I saw for sale!



The February meeting has a great speaker. We will begin with the program, and follow with general meeting and raffle, so be on time! The new 75" TV should be installed for use by then, woo hoo!

Cheers! -Blaze

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



2024 Proposed Trips		HOST
Jan 27	Colfax petrified wood & other river rocks	John Dolman
Feb 3	CO-OP trip meeting	
Feb 17	Dumortierite dig on New Hogan Lakebed	John Dolman
Mar 2	Big X area	John Dolman
Mar 3	CO-OP meeting, Sacramento	
Mar 23	Colfax rain\snow replacement date	John Dolman
Apr 13	Rhodonite Sawmill peak	John Dolman
Apr 20-22	Petersen Mountain	John Dolman
April 23/24/25 (date TBD)	Beale AFB Vernal Pool /ecology tour	Blaze Baker
Apr 26-28	Chinese Camp\Bagby	John Dolman
May 13	Traverse Creek	John Dolman
May 24-25	Ford Point area	John Dolman
Jun 15-16	Markleeville area	John Dolman
Jun 22-23	Nevada Lapis	John Dolman
Jul 4-6	Crystal Peak	John Dolman
July 11	Devil's Postpile (Take National Forest), possible gold panning	Blaze Baker
Jul 18-21	Davis Creek	John Dolman
Aug 30-31	Bagby	John Dolman
Sep 1-2	Bagby	
Oct 11-14	Tuledad	John Dolman
Nov 28-30	Big X area or Dec 7/14/21/28 (weather replacement dates)	John Dolman

Proposed Trips for 2024:

The above list does not include many trips offered by neighboring clubs, nor those that are run at the last minute due to weather and availability constraints. We will continue to offer as many trips as possible, with an emphasis on those that are local and easily-accessible. We welcome new trip suggestions, so if you come across a good spot or trip, please let us know!



January Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:11 pm by President Blaze Baker.

Present: Mike Field, Cathie Field, Blaze Baker, Lori Woodhall and Sheila Baker.

Others Present: Eric Trygg, John Dolman and Charles Lindquist.

Lori made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2023 meeting.

Cathie seconded the motion.

Vote – Motion carried.

There was no correspondence to share.

Treasurer's Report - Sheila reported the club is in good standing, and a copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

Mike made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Lori seconded the motion.

Vote – Motion carried.

Lori reported that this year's programs will be more robust. She has lined up speakers. The Federation has a list of speakers. Speaker fees were discussed. Blaze felt that having good programs would encourage membership. He felt we should add the newspaper to our publicity. He is reaching out to the 16-1 Mine and Kenton Mine about possible tours.

John advised about the Yuba Blue Co-Op trip with El Dorado club joining us.

Charlie reported the TV has been purchased along with a DVD player. Capitol Purchase of these two items was \$852.16.

Blaze is still working on a show at the Grange on McCourtney Rd. Once approved by the Grange he will share further details.

Casino night, no action taken.

Blaze stated that there is a need to go to the storage unit and see what is there, etc. He reported that Rich Cross is following up on the newsletter.

There was some discussion on how to handle the Regular Meetings. Whether to have a speaker go first and then conduct our business or vice versa. No decision reached at this time.

Debe Taylor has donated a large quantity of petrified wood to the club. We thanked her.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Baker, Secretary

January General Meeting Minutes

President Blaze Baker called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Attendance: 27 members

Blaze stated his gratitude for the club and it's future. It does take everyone's participation on trips, attending meetings, as well as, for the events we put on.

John Dolman reported that there is a field trip scheduled for Saturday January 6th. Interested folks should meet at the first Yuba River crossing Frontage Road at 9 am. See John for more details.

Dan Chaplin reported that he has a rock shop at his home. In the shop he has a 24" and 10" rock saw(s). He has 2 wheel grinders. He is planning an Open House for January 27, 2024. Email him if interested at danc.malachite@gmail.com

Charles Lindquist stated there have been concerns in the past about private information that is contained in the Membership List. The Board needs to address how much information goes out on the list and he will send out in March.

Break 7:22 pm to 7:37 pm.

Lori Woodhall gave a presentation of a trip she made to a home in Sacramento that is like a museum. It was a power point of the Dan Tablock home showing ALL of the rocks he has displayed in his home. It was amazing to watch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Baker, Secretary



Meet Your Board and Officers!

President: Blaze Baker

Vice President: Lori Woodhall

Secretary: Sheila Baker

Treasurer: Mike Field

Directors: Eric Trygg, Cathy Field, Edwina Swenson

Online Rockhounding Resources

A large number of online resources can be found which will increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby. Don't miss out on these resources because of social media horror stories. You can do the media without the social, lol.

The online version of this newsletter contains links to these sites. If you're reading a paper version, you can use your phone or PC to search online using the name of the site AND the



desired subject. For example, googling, “**reddit whats this rock**” should show you the *What’s This Rock* page on Reddit.

Reddit – this site does not require you create an account, so you can view minerals and related topics without having to enter an ID and password. It has various topics, including: [What’s This Rock](#) [Mineral Porn](#) [Rockhounds](#)

Facebook – a (free) account is required to access material on FB. Some good places to visit include: [What is My Rock?](#) [Beginner Rock Tumbling](#) [Amateur Geology and Rock Collecting](#) [Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society](#)



Mindat.org – Famous for its [excellent map system](#), this website has a huge amount of information on all things rock and mineral. It can be used to find sites as well as to research minerals you collect.

Mapping Apps/Sites – [Google Earth](#) or [Google Maps](#) for excellent topographic and satellite views of the terrain. [Avenza](#) (subscription required) is a decent app to use with your phone for identifying land ownership and can save you trespassing issues, but you can find the same information the slow way at your local county assessors office.

Travel Blogs/Influencers – once you fast-forward past the annoying parts, sometimes you can find tips on places to find minerals, although publication online at sites like these can quickly bring the masses to destroy the featured place. If someone with 50,000 followers is posting about it, you can be sure people are visiting that place.

Use a Search Engine With Your Favorite Place’s Name – if you enjoy camping at Bowman Lake, for example, google “**Bowman Lake rockhounding**” or “**Bowman Lake quartz.**”

Email/Messaging – collaborate with your friends and fellow club members, show off your finds and your places. You don’t have to share your best spots, it’s ok to have your own secret places!

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>
<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, dduhonvgms@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>

<p>May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club 2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 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>	<p>June 8-9, 2024 – Escondido, CA Palomar Gem and Mineral Club California Center for the Arts – at the Conference Center, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido Hours: Saturday 10AM – 5 PM, Sun 10AM – 4 PM Our show is the largest indoor Gem and Mineral Show in Southern California. Held at the California Center for the Arts – at the Conference Center, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido. Admission: \$5.00, Children under 12 Free Be entertained in 9000 square feet with 40 plus vendors displaying beautiful mineral specimens. Our visitors enjoy free parking. Contact: (425) 281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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 – <u>and no state tax</u>) show up. Nationally: http://www.amfed.org/fed_shows.htm</p>	

The Value of Gold – Don’t Crush That Specimen!

It may seem counter-intuitive, but gold found on other minerals such as quartz is generally more valuable than gold which has been melted down and turned into an ingot. Crystalline gold is especially valuable. A nugget purported to be from the local town of Washington, with 98.6 ounces of gold, sold in 2011 for \$470,000. At the time, gold was worth \$1500/ounce, so crushed up and poured into an ingot it would only have been worth about \$150,000.

Such a difference in valuation has naturally resulted in scams, the timeless curse of gold. The aforementioned nugget was later determined to have come from Australia, valued at far less, so the sale was canceled and the bidder refunded their money. In this particular case, the seller also used the nugget to increase the value of property he was selling, valuing it at \$105 million. As of a couple years ago, you could still buy the property – for \$550,000.



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 Cathie 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
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Rich Cross
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	Charles Lindquist
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

February's Meeting: *Miocene Zoo from Central California*— A recently-announced discovery of three kinds of elephants, a giant camel, little tapirs, ancient forest and more in our backyard near Galt. Presented by Charles Dailey, a retired professor at Sierra College, who taught Biology for 50 years as well as Field Paleontology.

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: www.ncgms.org

We're also on [Facebook!](#)

Thigh-packs, for serious rock collectors...



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



January 2024

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

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.

Bring a Friend!

