Nuggets From The Prez

Happy Birthday to the March people, you have aquamarine as your birthstone - one of my favorite stones, especially in matrix!



We are still taking care of business from the

transition. After quite an unnecessary hassle with the credit union, signatories have been changed to current officers. Deep kudos to Lori, Mike, and Sheila for putting up with all that craziness and their appointment inflexibility.

Not sure if anyone tracks, but the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) puts out a monthly newsletter. They are also our source of trip liability insurance – and part of our annual dues go to support that good program. The CFMS is seeking mineral donations (of approximately \$75 value) for the auction at the AFMS/CFMS show for the endowment fund (information on the CFMS website/newsletter). The AFMS/CFMS show is in Ventura this year, May 24-26. They are also looking for change-of-officer forms (to keep their records up-to-date) and are also reminding that applications for Camp Paradise open up

March 15th.

My outreach for new rockbound/tour opportunities has yielded scant results so far, but I did hear back from the Banner Grange (the one down McCourtney road a mile from the fairgrounds). The idea of a tailgate rock swap/show May 18th will be presented at their next board meeting.

The plan I offered is using the area much like they do on the second-Saturday swap meets with outdoor \$12 booth fees (\$24 for two parking spaces). And if it is a success to do it annually giving them another revenue source. Hopefully, I'll have news by our next meeting if it is a go or not.

February's meeting program was entertaining, I had Mr. Daily as an instructor when I want to Sierra College in the 80s; great to see him as lively and interesting as ever. March's program is on Montana's Yogo sapphires - sure to also be interesting, they have quite a wild history. And Frank is planning an auction for the April meeting - should be fun!

With weather breaking a little, and some strong rain events, I'm looking forward to getting on alluvial rockhound locations soon, and maybe an April Inyo county trip - 2024 is rolling on whether we are ready or not!

Cheers! -Blaze

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

2024 Proposed Trips		HOST
Mar 2	Big X Mountain 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 - quartz	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 – quartz, garnets, vesuvianite, serpentine minerals	John Dolman
May 24-25	Ford Point area – quartz, small pyrite and limonite cubes	John Dolman
Jun 15-16	Markleeville area – quartz in rhyolite, chalcopyrite	John Dolman
Jun 22-23	Nevada Lapis	John Dolman
June 27	Highway 20 Argillite	John Dolman
Jul 4-6	Crystal Peak – quartz, feldspar, chrysocolla	John Dolman
July 11	Devil's Postpile geology tour (Tahoe 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. Some members also visit places not generally appropriate for large groups, so the club-at-large may not always be invited. Come to a meeting and exchange contact information with your fellow club members, and you'll no doubt be invited to join others!



(Pictured: campsite at Double Hot Springs, in the Black Rock Desert, while finding blue chalcedony.)

February Board Meeting Minutes (2/6/2024)

The Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Blaze Baker.

It was determined there was a quorum of the Board in attendance.

Present: Lori Goodhall, Eric Trygg, Blaze Baker, Edwina Swenson, Cathie Field, Mike Field and Sheila Baker

Others Present: John Dolman and Charles Lindquist.

Motion I: Cathie made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting.

Mike seconded. Vote: Carried unanimously.

Mike gave the Treasurer's report stating the club is in good condition.

Motion II: Sheila moved to approve the Treasurer's report as given.

Lori seconded. Vote: Carried unanimously.

Membership Chairman – Charles reported that renewals have been slow. Membership dues is due by 3/1/2024. Blaze said he will remind attendees at the Regular meeting that dues are due.

John Dolman reported that there are three trips planned and he will share at the regular meeting.

Blaze said he received an email about the Children's program. Apparently, Cheryl hasn't taken it up this year as in past years. It was stated that Cheryl did a great job with the kids. We will put out a word at the Regular meeting for any interested person to take this on.

Discussion took place about how to get information about the club opportunities for children at the schools. Mike said he will go to Seven Hills school and see what the process is to be able to present club information to students at the school.

Blaze reported that information for the newsletter needs to get to Rich Cross (who has taken over this responsibility) by the 20th of the month.

Discussion took place on how to handle the 77" television installed at the Grange by NCGMS. The intent is for it to be available for Grange use (and they already have a key to the cabinet). Our club intent is for the Grange use only. We did not intend it for use by other individuals or clubs that the Grange rents the hall to (ie: showers, parties, memorials, other groups, etc.). Doing so puts the system at risk of misuse. Lori felt we should put this in writing. It was reported that Rich Cross is writing up instructions for use of the system so the Grange folks know how to use it.

Further discussion took place on whether to put a small plaque on the outside of the TV cabinet to let folks know who was responsible for its placement. General agreement on it was made and Sheila will take care of getting a plaque made and donate it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike presented a proposed club budget for 2024. Board members were asked to review and let him know of any items he may need to adjust. He has reached out to Frank Van Hecke for info on this year's club show budget.

Blaze has reached out to Frank Van Hecke for information on having an auction at the next meeting and is waiting to hear back.



Blaze advised that he is reaching out to various entities to see about field trips in the area. Places he is reaching out to are Kenton Mine, Oriental, Original 16:1, North Star Museum and Yuba Water Agency. He will keep us apprised on responses.

Blaze said there is a need for this group to go to the club's storage facility and basically see what is there and determine what we do not need and if there is Club documentation there. Blaze is hoping for a March visit, stay tuned for updates.

Sheila advised that Nevada Union has reached out to our Club about this year's Scholarship Program for graduating students. She will coordinate with Brandy Sanders at NU, and Cathie and Mike have agreed to work with her on reviewing student applications once received. It was agreed that prospective recipients would have an interest in Earth Sciences in their future pursuit.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Baker, Secretary

February General Meeting Minutes (2/6/2024)

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm by President Blaze Baker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Blaze welcomed the audience and guests attending.

In attendance were the new 2024 Board Members who were unanimously approved at the December 4, 2023 General Meeting – they were President Blaze Baker, Vice-President Lori Woodhall, Treasurer Mike Field, Secretary Sheila Baker and Directors Cathie Field, Eric Trygg and Edwina Swensen.

Membership Chairman Charles Lindquist reminded those in attendance that annual dues are due 3/1/2024. Dues are \$25.00 for a member and \$30.00 for a family with \$5.00 off for those that receive their newsletter by email (rather than snailmail).

Lori Woodhall introduced our guest speaker, Charles Dailey. Mr. Dailey is a former professor at Sierra College. He presented a very interesting slide show (the first use of our new TV installation) on paleontology, the study of ancient life forms. He particularly talked about areas in California such as Lake Pardee and Lake Comanche and the finds at these locations. He talked about how fossil evidence changes over time: things like animal bones, plants and fungi which tells us what our planet was like a long time ago. He said there are opportunities to visit the Mineral Exhibits at the museum at Sierra college in Rocklin. He encouraged us to go visit it. We thanked him for his presentation.

Business part of the General meeting began at 8:54 pm.

Blaze discussed the need for a leader for the Children's program. Please step up if you are interested.

Blaze reported that the Board is revising the school scholarship program. We have a committee of Board members working on it.

Dan Chaplin reported that the Open House at his rock shop was a success. He asked people to partner with him on this endeavor. He has a 24" rock saw, 10" rock saw and a grinder. He will reach out to the Board when he needs to replace an item (ie: saw blade, etc.).



Anita Wald-Tuttle advised she is a member of the Miner's Museum of Allegany. There are new owners of the museum and they are open for week-end visits. She encouraged us to visit and asked the Board if they would be interested in making a donation to the museum. This item will be placed on the next Board meeting agenda for consideration.

Blaze reported that he is reaching out to local mines and other agencies to see about setting up tours for our members. He will keep us apprised of how this goes.

John Dolman reported there are rock hounding trips planned for 3/2/24 and 3/23/24. Talk to him about those trips.

Raffle held.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Submitted by:

Sheila Baker, Secretary



Meet Your Board and Officers!

President: Blaze Baker

Vice President: Lori Woodhall

Secretary: Sheila Baker Treasurer: Mike Field

Directors: Eric Trygg, Cathie Field, Edwina Swenson

How to Find Rocks and Minerals

"Where do I find some cool rocks?" is a common question among newcomers to rockhounding. Chances are, though, that the person asking that question already knows the answer: they're all around us!

Gem and Mineral Stores

We are fortunate to have a number of stores in our area selling rocks and minerals. Some are priced reasonably, others will ask outrageous prices for their specimens. Shop around a bit before committing. If you're a member of our rock club, wear your club tshirt and they might drop their prices automatically, recognizing you as a probable expert.

And as you're traveling, especially if you're in an area with abundant mines, keep an eye open for other rock stores. These small, remote shops can have fantastic bargains, as it is often the case that the store owners have their own claims. Expect local minerals to be less expensive at these places, sold by genuine experts on the material at hand, and buy accordingly. If you're in



Austin, buy turquoise. If you're in southern Humboldt, buy some fossil clams. Yes, you can find turquoise at that store in Humboldt, but it will cost more than the gems you can buy in Nevada.

Beware online buying of rocks and minerals. Fakes are common. Be sure to note the specimen's size! Macro photography can make any old rock look nice.

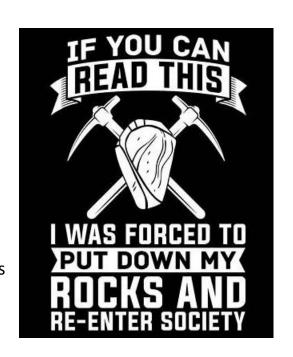
Annual Shows

Review the calendar, below, for upcoming shows. You'll find some fantastic specimens at reasonable prices that you will rarely be able to find on your own in the wild. I am constantly shocked by just how inexpensive some of my favorite minerals are.

Rockhounding - Go Play in the Creeks!

Rocks and minerals you find yourself are always special, and part of the attraction of rock hounding is cleaning and photographing your finds, even sharing them with others. I suspect if you're reading this, then you have been picking up shiny rocks your entire life, so you understand what I'm talking about.

A basic understanding of the local geology where you're searching for minerals will greatly increase your odds of finding something shiny. Make the effort to puzzle things out, Google terms you don't understand, don't give up. Eventually you will see the big picture, how things interconnect, and it will greatly enhance your outdoors experience. And your chance of finding cool rocks.



The good news is that we live in an area with abundant collectible rocks and minerals. The ancestral Sierra Nevada had fully eroded by about 55 million years ago, an entire mountain range the size of the Himalayas, washed away, sorted, and sifted. The rocks of that range were washed into the Central Valley, and also carried along large north-south trending rivers like the Ancestral Yuba, aka The Blue Lead. These ancient rivers concentrated the gravels, with the result that not only gold, but rare gems and minerals like sapphires, rubies, silver, and platinum can still be found along those prehistoric streambeds.

More recently, the Gold Rush happened and miners dug up most of those ancient waterways, in the process washing even more gravel down our modern rivers. Today you can find these



gravels in places like the Yuba Gold Fields, Greenhorn Creek, Steephollow Creek, and the Bear River. Greenhorn Creek is especially productive, constantly renewed by the quarry just upstream. Besides the previously-mentioned precious gems, you are more likely to find quartz crystals (often naturally-tumbled into jelly-bean or spherical shapes), petrified wood (some agatized or opalized), agates, and a variety of colorful jaspers and chert. Plus gold, of course!

Mines – Historic Explorations

Fantastic mineral specimens can still be found in our local mine tailings. Miners were generally interested in valuable precious metals like gold and silver, and non-valuable rocks and minerals like quartz crystals were ignored. Keep in mind that back in the day they had to carry everything they found back to town on their own, or their mule's back.

The website, <u>mindat.org</u>, is a good resource for researching mines in an area of interest to you. It has detailed maps showing locations, as well as a listing of minerals found at each mine.

But the most productive collecting sites aren't publicized and are not listed on Mindat. You'll be more successful in your search the further you get from any modern road or trail. Look for tailings piles on the hillsides as you explore the backcountry. Also watch the roadbed as you're driving, stopping to check the ground when you spot quartz float on the shoulder. Check areas which have burned over in recent wildfires; some of that brush has blocked access for over a hundred years. Then go home and pull out the maps to plot access.

Networking – Club Meetings

Find a group of rock hounds (preferably starting with Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, of course) and go meet them. Arrive early to club meetings, so you have time to chat. Bring some of your favorite rocks for identification or just to show off. We all love seeing new rocks!

Don't be afraid to visit online rock sites, either, as many people just aren't into meetings. There is a world of untapped knowledge out there, a keyboard away from you. And when you hear a rumor, don't hesitate, get out in the hills and find that spot! Be prepared for locked gates, downed trees, washed-out roads, and exaggerated tales, those are all part of the game. Even if you don't find the rumored treasure, you may find other collecting sites along the way.

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

2024 CFMS Shows

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA	March 16-17, 2024 – San Jose, CA SOCIE
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society	Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.	Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM-4PM	Tullly Road, San Jose, CA 95111
Dealers and exhibits, demos, gold panning, kids activities,	Hours: Sat and Sun 10-6
raffle & silent auctions, Country Store an plant sale, free	Contact: info@scvgms.org,
resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 60+ years.	(408) 265-1422
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org	Website: info@scvgms.org or
Website: http://www.vgms.org	(on Facebook)
March 16-17, 2024 – Lemoore, CA	March 23-24, 2024 – Angeles Camp, CA
Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society	Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
Trinity Hall, 470 Chamoion St., Lemoore,	2465 Gun Club Rd., Angeles Camp CA 95222
CA 93245	Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10–4 PM
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	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 site.
	FREE PARKING.
	Contact: (209) 736-4892, dbrooks49@att.net
	Website: http://CalaverasGemandMineral.net
April 13-14, 2024 – Mariposa, CA	April 13-14, 2024 – Placerville, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club	El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd.,	El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA
Mariposa, CA 95338	Hours: Saturday 10 AM -5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4
Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM	PM
We'll have a great selection of vendors with all sorts of	Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org
gems, minerals, fossils, rough lapidary material and many	Website: http://edcmgs.org
other rock-related items, a fabulous raffle, silent auction,	
geode cutting, and, of course, food	
Website: http://mariposagemclub.org	
April 27-28, 2024 – Santa Cruz	May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society	Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
307 Church St,. Santa Cruz, CA 95060	2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Hours: Sat 10AM – 5PM, Sun 10AM – 4PM
Contact: scruzmgs@gmail.com	Parking and Admission are free. Plenty of vendors,
1	
Website: https://scrockngem.org	displays and activities for the whole family.

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: marylandoriole@gmail.com

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 40 plus vendors displaying mineral specimens.

Our visitors enjoy free parking. Contact: (425) 281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

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

Rock Party at Dan's House!

Club member Dan Chaplin was kind enough to recently have members over to his house to learn about, and use, various lapidary equipment. Several rocks saws of different sizes and grinders were put to good use by the half dozen people who visited. Safety measures were dutifully employed, and nobody lost any fingers. It turns out rock saws don't do that unless you make a real effort. Getting one's hair caught in the equipment is a greater hazard.

Many of us have large rock collections just waiting to be cut and polished, so this was a great introduction to the art. Thanks again, Dan, for the opportunity, we look forward to your next open house!



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

2024 Officers

Blaze Baker **PRESIDENT** 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
FEDERATION DIRECTOR
HISTORIAN
HOSPITALITY
JUNIOR PROGRAM
Lori Woodhall
Frank Van Hecke
Beverly Glenn
Christie Harris
Julie DeHollander

Cheryl Hendrickson

LIBRARIAN Beverly Glenn
MEMBERSHIP Charles Lindau

MEMBERSHIP Charles Lindquist webmaster@ncgms.org

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

March's Meeting: Yogo Gulch Sapphire -- A photo tour of the geology, history, and people of the Montana discovery of the most significant, but small, natural blue Sapphire in the world. Mr. Hutchings will cover the history, from discovery, to the Old English mine, to the failed Intergem operation, to the mine status today.

Jim Hutchings, a life-long rockhound from 5 years old, worked in public safety for 30 years. After taking a mineral ID class at Sierra College, he became interested in the subject. He has attended the Tucson show for 25 years and his areas of expertise are the physics and chemistry of mineral formation. He also has run a small-scale gold mine in the Foresthill area for the last 35 years. He speaks on a variety of mineral and gem-related subjects.

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 gvrunner99@yahoo.com

Check out our website at: www.ncgms.org We're also on Facebook!

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 pa	art of the club roster unless omission is requested).
Type of Membership (check or	ne):
Adult 18 Years or Older:	\$25.00 per year.
Family (one address):	\$30.00 per year.
If you wish to receive newslett	er by Email only, deduct \$5.00 from normal membership dues.
I wish to receive my news	sletter by email and have entered an Email address.
Nevada County Gem and Mine	ral Society (NCGMS) is a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the
	nized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(4)of the Internal Revenue Code fornia Revenue and Taxation Code. Contributions made to NCGMS are NOT



First Class Mail



General Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Presentation: Yogo Gulch Sapphire - A photo tour of the geology, history, and people of the Montana discovery of the most significant, but small natural blue Sapphire in the world.

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!

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