

Rock Writings

June, 2025

Newsletter of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Vol. 58, #6

Nuggets From The President

Hi fellow rock hounds. Hope your excursions all produce an extra rock or two. Our show dates are all set for October 4 & 5, with setup on the 3rd. The club picnic is July 12, at Pioneer Park, by the creek, so mark

your calendar. Thank you Mark for saving the day for us with a program last meeting. And also for the microphone! See you all the 3rd. - Jan

NCGMS 2025 Field Trips

Please double-check before the trip to ensure it is still planned:



2025 Proposed Trips	Host
Jun 7 Ford Point area	John Dolman
Jun 14-15 Markleeville area	John Dolman
Jun 28-29 (rain date) Nevada Lapis	John Dolman
Jul 12-13 Davis Creek area	John Dolman
Jul 26 Washington, CA Argillite	John Dolman
October OUR GEM & MINERAL SHOW!!!	Our Club!
Oct 4-5 Tulead agate, obsidian, pet/wood	John Dolman
Oct 11-12 Bagby Mariposite	John Dolman
Nov-Dec (on Saturdays) Big X area	John Dolman
TBD Do you have an idea for a field trip? Maybe you know a nice place for rocks and don't mind sharing with the club? Please contact us with your trip ideas!	varies

John is looking for an *assistant trip chair* to assist with field trips. Please contact him at the number or email shown in the listing, below. Try it for the rest of this year, and you'll find yourself totally immersed in the world of rock hounding!



Field Trips Hosted by CO-OP Field Trip Chairman's Association (2025)

The CO-OP is a group of rock, mineral, and lapidary clubs who share resources and work together to foster rock hounding and related activities. One benefit of our club being a member is access to other clubs' field trips, including the following:

May 3 rd	Cache Creek Esparto, CA Lodi G&MS Amber Smith, Email ambersmithlmft@proton.me Text or Call 209-329-6217 Brecciated Jasper, Jasp-Agates, Lacy Agate, and Colorful Chert.
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May 24-26th	Gabbs Middle Gate Earthquake Fault East of Fallon NV. CO-OP Gina Malcolm. 707-685-4006 Text always for RSVP be sure to let me know who you are and what days you will be attending.! Agate jaspers pet wood.
June 17-29th	Central Oregon Mother Lode Mineral Society and Calaveras G & M Janet Steigerwald and Kevin Kirschman (kkirschman@prodigy.net, phone 209-769-1502) with email being the best choice. Moss agate, obsidian, limb casts, jasper, Biggs Jasper, Sunstones, thundereggs. Prineville and Madras show.
Aug 8-10	Pet. Blue Forest & American Fossil Quarry. Kemmerer, WY Sacramento Mineral Society Mike Jones, cell (916) 477-0890 scienceskoolbus@gmail.com Pet wood, Fossils. Pet wood no fee American Fossil Quarry Fee Dig
Aug 27 - Sep 1	Texas Springs NV/ Rock Shop Tony Funks Rock Shop Gooding ID Calaveras G & M Robert Young Cell 530-545-0932 Home 209-728-8454 email -ryoung1738@aol.com
Sep 25-28	Topaz Mt & Dugway Geo Beds UT Roseville Rock Rollers CFMS 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. Gene Doyle will email you a more detailed write up upon request.

Additional information may be found on the Co-Op's website, at <https://www.co-opfieldtrips.com/home>

May Board Meeting Minutes (5/6/2025)

Call to Order at 1814 by President Jan Longacre.

Members Present: Jan Longacre, President; Edwina Swenson, Vice Pres.; Mike Field, Treasurer; Debe Taylor, Secretary; Christie Harris, Director; Katie Baker, Director; Joyce Emerson, Show Chair. Absent: Dan Chaplin, Director.

Guests present: Frank VanHecke, Federation Rep and Gwen Fissel, Junior Division Leader.

Quorum was determined by Jan Longacre.

Minutes of the April Board Meeting were reviewed and a correction was noted by Jan. The April minutes do not state that Jan Longacre gave the Show Report in Joyce Emerson's absence. Motion to accept the minutes with the above correction was made by Christie Harris, and seconded by Edwina Swenson. Motion carried seven ayes, 0 nays.

Treasurer's Report: Mike reported one check written for \$173.72 for newsletter expenses and member badges, and one deposit of \$35.00. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Debe Taylor and seconded by Edwina Swenson. Motion carried with seven ayes and 0 nays.

Show Chair: Jan Longacre signed the corrected Fairgrounds contract on 05 April, as Joyce Emerson was incapacitated at the time it was received.

Junior Division: Gwen Fissel, as Junior Division (J.D) Leader, reported that the American Federation of Minerals Society is in oversight of all club junior divisions. There is no stipulation in regard to livescans or additional insurance to cover the J.D. leader or division. It is covered by the paid membership of the parents.

She has two junior members registered, with the possibility of some older members if suitable instruction can be found, i.e., gold panning and other older kid (think teens) activities. She will contact Dan Chaplin to see if he has time for this. Gwen also gave a brief overview of the history of the Junior Division and passed around a copy of *The Mini Miner*, the monthly newsletter for the J.D.

Old Business:

- The club scholarship certificate was presented to Sam Ove at the Nevada Union High School Scholarship Night event on 25 April, 2025, by Mike and Cathie Field. The actual distribution of funds will occur upon registration at the college of Sam's choice.
- Joyce Emerson is still working on the Show Budget.
- Christie Harris contacted Rich Cross, newsletter editor, regarding questions about the deadline for submitting items for the monthly newsletter. Rich said that his deadline for the newsletter is around the 18th or 19th of the month.

New Business:

- Final payment for the show in the amount \$5,860 is due on 5/20/25 to the Fairgrounds.
- Scholarships to Camp Paradise were discussed. The cost is \$550.00, which covers room, board, and class instruction for 1 week. Christie made a motion that the club sponsor 2 or 3 scholarships that would cover half the cost of the fee for club members. Mike seconded the motion. Christie will develop a member participation plan and will present it at the next board meeting, at which point it will be voted on.

Meeting Adjourned at 1859 by Jan Longacre.

May General Membership Meeting Minutes (5/6/2025)

Called to Order by President, Jan Longacre at 1810 followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Members Present: 22

Guests: 1, Denise Hugenberg

Door prizes: Cathie Field, Denise Hugenberg

Committee Reports:

- **Club Picnic:** Lori Woodhall; No report



- **Federation:** Frank VanHecke; No report
- **Field Trips:** John Dolman; This coming weekend, 5/10, there will be an excursion to Traverse Creek, (between Georgetown and Placerville), for gold and vesuvianite.
- **Historian:** Beverly Glenn; No report
- **Hospitality:** Christie Harris; No report
- **Junior Division:** Gwen Fissel; The kids practiced panning for gold this month.
- **Librarian:** Beverly Glenn; No report
- **Membership:** Charles Lindquist; (absent), No report
- **Newsletter Editor;** Rich Cross; (absent), Deadline for newsletter is the 18 or 19 of the month per Christie Harris, who contacted Rich for the board.
- **Newsletter Publisher;** Charles Lindquist; (absent), No report
- **Scholarship:** Sheila Baker; Mike and Cathie Field attended th Nevada Union High School Scholarship Event on 04/25/25 and awarded Sam Ove the club scholarship certificate for \$500. Actual funds will be released upon Sam's college registration.
- **Show Chair:** Joyce Emerson; two dinosaurs will be exhibited at the show. Local schools are advertising this to their student bodies.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Camp Paradise was promoted by Katie Baker. The subject of club scholarships was raised, but the membership present did not constitute the quorum needed to vote on the issue. Please attend the following meetings in order to address scholarship monies and other matters as they arise. YOU could be a lucky winner.

Break

Program:

We enjoyed a 30 minute video entitled "Expert Reveals Gold Nugget Hunting Secrets for Northern California," by Chris Ralph. If you missed it, you can watch it at home by entering the above title. There was a lot of info on gold producing locals in our area, many with familiar names. If you're into gold prospecting it's worth taking a look at or even a 2nd look. It also included a pointed to a free government booklet that you can find on line entitled, "Gold Districts of California, Bulletin 193." Additionally, the USGS has a data base for gold mines that can be accessed on line.

Meeting adjourned by Jan Longacre.

Respectfully submitted by Debe Taylor, Secretary



Tar Seeps in California

Not Just Slow Death, But Also Rockhounding!

Many Californians have heard of, or even visited, La Brea Tar Pits, without realizing there are other tar seeps in the state. Thousands of seeps of varying size may be found here, located in 28 counties, so there's probably one near you.

McKittrick, off of Interstate 5, has a large area of tar, with several tar creeks that actually flow (ooze?). It was the site of tar mines back in the day, and is now dominated by the petroleum extraction industry. The area looks like something out of Mad Max, industrial and polluted, with epic views and swirling dust devils dancing among the pipes. And as in most areas with tar, one can find fossils and other interesting rocks and minerals.



McKittrick Tar Creek

The town of Petrolia is (obviously) named for its seeps. One of the town's parks has a seep which locals will light on fire and then use to roast hot dogs. Good times!

Red Bluff also has a large area of seeps, with hot springs, the site of a historic health spa. The area is now closed to the public, but if you find your way into it, bring a long lighter so you can light the hot springs on fire. Seriously, burning water. Just don't be IN the tub when you do this.

Our coastline seems to hold a large number of tar seeps, with Carpinteria (near Santa Barbara) being the largest, bigger even, than La Brea. Large numbers of fossils have been found here as well.

And there are hundreds, if not thousands of tiny seeps scattered throughout the state, often only recognized as an oily sheen on a local creek.



Common opal and ?





For more information, search on “wikipedia california seeps”.

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

2025 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jan Longacre
VICE PRESIDENT	Edwina Swenson
SECRETARY	Debe Taylor
TREASURER	Mike Field
DIRECTORS	Katie Baker
	Dan Chaplin
	Christie Harris

2025 Committee Chairpersons

CLUB PICNIC	Lori Woodhall
FEDERATION DIRECTOR	Frank Van Hecke
HISTORIAN	Beverly Glenn
HOSPITALITY	Christie Harris
JUNIOR PROGRAM	Gwen Fissel
LIBRARIAN	Beverly Glenn
MEMBERSHIP	Charles Lindquist
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Rich Cross
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	Charles Lindquist
REFRESHMENTS	Monthly Birthday Honorees

webmaster@ncgms.org

webmaster@ncgms.org



SCHOLARSHIP

SHOW CHAIR

SUNSHINE

TREK LEADER (Field Trips)

WEBMASTER

Sheila Baker

Joyce Emerson

Lori Woodhall

John Dolman

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





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

First Class Mail



June, 2025

June meeting: Tuesday June 3, 2025

Meetings Monthly First Tuesdays

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

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

June's Program: tbd 😞

Golden Empire Grange Guild

11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

2025 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!