

# CFMS Field Trips - North

## Field Trip to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek

July 26 – 29, 2018

Hosted by Contra Costa M&GS

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Davis Creek is the premier obsidian collecting area in California with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp.

**Directions:** Take your favorite route to Alturas, CA in the far northeast corner of California (I-5/US299 or US395}. From Alturas, go north on US Route 395. Approximately 22 miles from Alturas is the small town of Davis Creek (stop here to visit the Davis Creek Mercantile, a very interesting little store). Continue another 11 miles to South Willow Ranch Rd/County Rd. 47 where you should see the first orange paper plate with arrows that direct you to camp. Turn right and follow this road and the orange paper plates 5.5 miles. Turn right and cross the small bridge. After you cross the bridge turn left; you will see the Lassen Creek Campgrounds on your left, turn left into the campground.

**Facilities:** The campground is a large meadow with some large pine trees and two small streams. This is a “dry camping” area with one very nice pit toilet. It can accommodate all sizes of motorhomes and trailers and is also very good for tenters. At Davis Creek there is gas and some groceries, and a great place to get ice cream on a hot afternoon. At Alturas and Lakeview, OR there is gas, food, motels, RV parks and medical facilities.

**Collecting Trips:** The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, **SHARP**, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day’s trip. We will be collecting at 5 major sites: Rainbow, Electric Blue, Pink Lady, Needles, and Mahogany Gold Sheen. You have to dig for the biggest and the best, but there is a lot of good obsidian to be found as float and in the discards from previous diggers. Because of the expected size of the group and limited parking at the collecting sites, we will divide up into small groups, each going to a different site. Everyone will get to go to every site.

Thursday,	July 26	Arrive at camp
Friday,	July 27	Daily collecting trips
Saturday,	July 28	Daily collecting trips and Potluck Dinner
Sunday,	July 29	Daily collecting trips
Monday,	July 30	Depart to home or to other adventures

Plan on a potluck dinner and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some great obsidian. Come join us for a great rockhound time of collecting, fun and fellowship.

**Safety Note:** Obsidian is Mother Nature’s glass and like glass it shatters and is extremely sharp. Goggles or safety glasses, long sleeve shirts and gloves are strongly recommended.

Please notify me by 7/23/18 if you plan to attend, call if you have questions or need more information:

Dick Pankey  
Email: dickpankey@juno.com (preferred)  
Ph. 925-439-7509

## General Information

This is a CFMS FT-N trip - Jim Barton, CFMS Field Trips-North chairman

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mountain in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp or at the Davis Creek Store. In addition to the daily collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, evening campfires, knapping demonstrations, and a great rockhound get-together. This is an Archeological and Historic area; take care not to disturb nor pickup any artifacts that you discover.

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### Daily Field Trips:

- All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Pacific Time), **SHARP**, from the Lassen Creek Campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas.
- All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability.
- We will be collecting at 4 to 6 different sites for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian.
- We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day. Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a signup sheet each day for each site.
- There is float collecting and digging. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment and what ever else you usually bring.
- High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them.
- **Safety Note:** Obsidian is Mother Nature's glass and like glass it shatters and is extremely sharp. Goggles or safety glasses, long sleeve shirts and gloves are strongly recommended
- There are full hook-up, RV parks in Alturas and Lakeview. There are motels in Alturas and Lakeview. E-mail Dick Pankey for names and phone numbers.
- We will have a potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood.
- Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite collecting areas for show and tell at the tailgate display. This will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings and information about your favorite collecting areas.
- There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of the Lassen Creek site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more.
- We will conduct a cleanup of the collecting sites and campgrounds.

Please notify me by 7/23/18 to signup if you plan to attend; contact me if you have questions or need more information:

Dick Pankey

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