



# C.F.M.S. Newsletter

XLV #6

July 2009

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Earth Science Studies Opportunities**

**By C.J. Quitariano**



Hello again everybody! Is this year going by fast, or is it just me? We just recently returned from this year's Earth Science Studies at Camp Paradise, and boy, what a great time we had there! If you've never gone, you really should. This year they had some really nice pieces come out of all of the classes. The Intarsia class, which is fairly new to Paradise, really had some pretty work being done, and we had a new teacher giving instruction on chain making. There were Ming Trees with Jo, and Ray was demonstrating spheres. The food was out of this world as usual...I gained a ton...as usual!

This year we are going to be raffling off a spot for next year's Camp Paradise in a fund-raising effort for the Endowment Fund. I will let Ray explain the way it works later in the newsletter. But I still want to encourage everyone to buy at least one ticket and to pass the information on to your club members. Remember, this is for the Endowment Fund, our "life's blood" so to speak, but it's also a \$350 prize if you or one of your fellow club members win!

Zzyzx is just around the corner too, I'm not sure if they are any spots left, but I'm sure if you call Marion Roberts, he could let you know!

Anyway, I really don't have much news this month, and since Jim is probably waiting for this article, I'll be going now and let Ray write his article. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I hope to see many of you at your upcoming shows!

- CJ

## **ARTICLE INDEX**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| President's Message .....                 | 1          |
| Article Index .....                       | 1          |
| Subscription Information & Contacts ..... | 1 & 2      |
| CFMS Calendar .....                       | 2          |
| From Your Editor .....                    | 2          |
| All American Report .....                 | 3          |
| CFMS Jury of Awards .....                 | 3          |
| CFMS Rep to AFMS .....                    | 3 & 4      |
| Earth Science Studies .....               | 4          |
| Endowment Fund - CFMS.....                | 4          |
| Field Trips - South Report.....           | 5 & 6      |
| Junior Activities Report.....             | 6 & 7      |
| Safety Committee .....                    | 7          |
| Scholarship - CFMS .....                  | 7          |
| Show Ideas .....                          | 7          |
| Notes from John.....                      | 8          |
| Inter-Regional Rendezvous .....           | 8, 9, & 10 |
| American Lands Access Assoc.....          | 10 & 11    |
| AFMS/NFMS Show & Convention .....         | 11         |
| CFMS Shows & Events.....                  | Insert     |
| CFMS Officer & Committee Roster .....     | Insert     |

## **NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CFMS Newsletter is published 11 times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$5.50 per year, January through December. Not prorated.



*Promote rockhounding. Display the sticker.*

## CFMS WEBSITE

CFMS on the Internet is accessible at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). Web Master is Don Ogden. Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this web site.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657  
(909) 874-5664 FAX: (909) 874-7430  
Email: [bplarue@earthlink.net](mailto:bplarue@earthlink.net)

## CFMS INSURANCE CONTACT

McDaniel Insurance Services  
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024  
805-646-9948 or 800-400-7288  
805-646-9976 Fax  
Email: [mcins@west.net](mailto:mcins@west.net)

Bud McMillin, Insurance Chair  
1717 Oakdale Rd. Ste. O  
Modesto, CA 95355-3066  
(209) 524-3494  
(209) 527-8000 - Work  
Email: [bud.mcmillin.b7yr@statefarm.com](mailto:bud.mcmillin.b7yr@statefarm.com)

## TO REPORT A CLAIM

Report claims as soon as possible to Patt McDaniel at 1-800-400-7288. If no one is immediately available, and/or during non-business and weekend hours, call 1-800-252-4670.

## ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER DUE TO EDITOR BY 5th OF MONTH

Jim Brace-Thompson, Editor  
7319 Eisenhower Street  
Ventura, California 93003  
(805) 659-3577  
Email: [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com)

## ANYTIME!

Send donations for **CFMS Scholarship Fund**  
to: Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, California 92377-1657

Send donations for **AFMS Scholarship Fund**  
to: Betty Pankey  
4310 Kingsly Drive  
Pittsburg, California 94565-6267

Send donations for **CFMS Endowment Fund**  
to: Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, California 92377-1657

Send donations for **AFMS Endowment Fund**  
to: Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, California 92377-1657

## 2009 CFMS Calendar through December

**June 6-7 - Field Trips - South San Diego field trips**

**Oct. 7 - deadline to send Officer & Chairmen's reports to Pat LaRue for Visalia Directors' Meeting**

**Nov. 7 - Fall Directors' Meeting, Holiday Inn, Visalia**

**Nov. 15 - no cancellations/refunds for Zzyzx as of this date, unless a replacement is provided.**

**Nov. 15-22 - Earth Science Studies at Zzyzx**

## FROM YOUR EDITOR Pass the Word!

### By Jim Brace-Thompson

As CFMS Editor this year, I've been privileged to receive many club bulletins, and I'm always impressed by the good, varied activities and enthusiasm of members of affiliated clubs. Keep up the great spirit! I'm also encouraged to see various CFMS Newsletter articles reprinted in club bulletins. On a less positive note, in reading recording secretary reports from club meetings, I'm surprised at how many times the following is listed: *"Federation Report: None."* To all local club officers and Federation Directors receiving this newsletter: say it ain't so, Joe! Say that all the efforts by your Federation directors and committees and their reports offered herein ain't in vain. Please take the time to carefully read all the articles and to give your club a full report, inviting them to participate in CFMS field trips, in Camp Paradise and Zzyzx workshops, in the varied contests we offer, in the slide shows, CDs and programs we provide, in the kids badge program that's free-of-charge, in our member recognition program, land access efforts of ALAA, and so much more. No news to report? Please: ***pass the word!***

- Jim



**ALL AMERICAN REPORT**  
**Preparing Your Entry for 2010**

**By Dot Beachler**

The time has come. June is here. The year is well underway. The All American Program looks forward to many clubs entering the program for a very special award. Why enter? Let's review.

This All American Award is meant to:

- Encourage club members to share their expertise and enthusiasm for their hobby.
- Be a model for organizing a history of their club.
- Offer an opportunity for club recognition.

Now we know *why*. Next comes *how*. The entry form is available for downloading from the CFMS web site, [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). Each report is to be submitted in a loose-leaf notebook. This document is limited to a maximum of 100 sheets (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. The document should have six section dividers numbered 1 through 6. Supporting information for each of the report sections should follow the appropriate section dividers. Remember that all information is for the prior year. A good start on collecting information for the report can be obtained from club chairmen, club newsletters and the secretary's minutes.

**- Dot**



**CFMS JURY OF AWARDS**  
**Still Seeking Nominations for**  
**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**  
**Honoree**

**By Jim Brace-Thompson**

As CFMS 2nd VP, I chair the CFMS Jury of Awards for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and, as I noted last month, to accomplish that duty, I need your help! This Foundation started in 1964 and has distributed more than a million dollars to deserving geoscience students at the graduate level (in either a Master's or Ph.D. program). We need to select an honoree (an individual or a couple) who, in turn, chooses a university and participates in choosing two geoscience graduate students who receive \$2,000 each year for two years, or a total of \$4,000 for each student.

***I'm seeking nominees for our 2010 award.***

Despite last month's announcement, I've received no names. The goal is to have nominees determined at or shortly after the conclusion of our annual November Directors' Meeting in Visalia. I'm sure any number of worthy names come quickly to mind, so please ***share your thoughts with me.***

To make a nomination, send me the name/s of your nominee/s along with a brief background explaining why you believe your nominee is worthy of this award. You should consider service that has been long and sustained and that ripples beyond the regional level to include some sort of national service. I'll take nominations whatever way works best for you. Call (805-659-3577), mail (7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003), or email me ([jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com)). Golden Bears and CFMS Past-Presidents Jeane and Bob Stultz were recently honored with the 2009 award. Keep them in mind as models when thinking about whom to nominate for our 2010 award.

*Here's thanking you in advance for your nominees!*

**- Jim**



**CFMS REP TO AFMS**  
**EXCITEMENT BUILDING FOR**  
**AFMS SHOW**

**By Colleen McGann**

The AFMS meeting and Northwest Federation show in Billings, Montana, starts July 30. Every year, the AFMS Endowment Fund sponsors a raffle auction with marvelous items at this annual nationwide show. Some prizes this year are faceted stones, a meteorite, opal pendant, engraved glass vase, smoky quartz dolphin carving, rhodonite dogwood pin, Guatemalan jadeite cabochon pendant set in silver, off-loom beaded pendant, Peterson Mountain smoky quartz wire wrapped pendant, and many more one-of-a-kind creations.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. These are available from Colleen McGann, P.O. Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224. Email me ([colleen.mcgann@hds.com](mailto:colleen.mcgann@hds.com)) this month for tickets. I will take all the tickets with me to Billings to give us all a great chance to win. Let California show the other regions we can sell more tickets than they can! I am waiting to

hear from you! I will be leaving Saturday, July 25, so get in touch with me soon.

- Colleen



## EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES

By Marion F. Roberts

In writing this report, I have new and very good information. We just finished with a week at Camp Paradise, which was a really big week. We had 75 participants, of which approximately 30% were first-timers. This proved to be more people than the work area is capable of supporting in an effective manner, so next year I have arranged to return to the *two* one-week camps again. We will register 2:00 PM, May 16, 2010, with classes May 17-21, leaving on the morning of May 22. The second week will register 2:00 PM, May 23, with classes May 24-28 and departure the morning of May 29. I will have **applications for 2010 Camp Paradise** on the Internet and ready for the club newsletters at the **end of December**.

To all Federation Directors and Club Editors, get this information out to your membership because I am still getting way too many calls from people who have not heard of the program before and want to know what it is. This is something that falls back on your shoulders. I can only inform you, and you are then responsible for passing it on to the membership, even if it doesn't interest you personally.

We are in need of a few more people at Camp Zzyzx, particularly RV'ers as room space is at a premium. Come and attend while you still have a chance, as this site might very well become unavailable to in the near future.

The six tables were finished, thanks to John Christiansen's help with construction, and Norman and B.J. Kline from the Mother Lode Club, who donated a generous amount toward material. These tables were well received and used by our instructors at Camp Paradise. Still more are needed, so as more material becomes available, I will build more. I do need the legs and metal frames from under old banquet tables.

Just remember: E.S.S is sound, strong, and a great learning tool!!!

- Marion



## ENDOWMENT FUND-CFMS

### Raffling a Spot at Camp Paradise

By Ray Quitariano

Hello Everyone! First of all, I want to send out a great big THANK YOU to Susan Vaughn in Santa Barbara for the wonderfully generous donation of a box full of beautiful minerals, and Marty from Long Beach for the saw he donated last year. These donations are greatly appreciated!

It's been a while since I wrote anything for the newsletter, but CJ has an idea for a fundraiser for our Endowment Fund, and this is the best way to get the word out. We are going to raffle off at least one spot for next year's Camp Paradise. The drawing is going to be held at the Director's meeting in November. With this article, I'm including a ticket; you can make as many copies and enter to win as many times as you like. The cost is a meager \$5 per ticket. Simply cut out, or copy the ticket, fill in the information, and send it with your check to my address located on the ticket. Make the check out to "CFMS Endowment Fund", or simply "CFMS." Here's that ticket:

\* \* \* \* \*

### \$5 Camp Paradise Raffle Ticket

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Club Name:

**Send to:** Ray Quitariano, 7968 Elder Ave., Rosamond, CA 93560. Make checks payable to **"CFMS Endowment Fund."**

\* \* \* \* \*

Recipients of this newsletter are asked to please inform your club members of the raffle and to bring copies of the tickets to your club meetings. Editors, please copy any part of this article, and put the tickets in your newsletters, as well. The more tickets we sell, the more we will raise for the club!

Camp Paradise is normally \$350 per person, and you might win a spot for only \$5! Think of the fun you'll have! Thanks for reading,

- Ray



**FIELD TRIPS-  
SOUTH**  
**The Great Onyx  
Hunt Trip Report**



**By Adam Dean & Shep Koss**

This was our first overnighter since Wileys Well last Thanksgiving and, thankfully, the weather was much drier. 20 vehicles showed up with 42 sign-ins including kids. The day started brisk, sunny and breezy as is typical for the high desert this time of year. At the meet spot, we were met by Bill DeVelbiss of the Tehachapi and Mojave (Boron) clubs. He's an engineer at the U.S. Borax Mine. His presence was welcome in that, among other things, he brought a presentation book on warnings of poisonous desert creatures including snakes and spiders. He also gave a lecture on the geology of the area and notified us about roads closed due to an Air Force T-38 that crashed two days previously.

We proceeded to the Sierra Pelona Rock Club travertine onyx claim, where we scattered to various pits to pull out some of the desert's most colorful onyx (a calcium carbonate base) with hard rock mining and surface collecting. We collected hundreds of pounds worth in combinations of black, white, gold, red, honey and green. Some had blue agate veining and vugs. The tons of watermelon-sized boulders brought up earlier this year were all gone, which attests to the popularity of this site and material. As the day grew warmer and windier, Bill returned with live animals of the desert, including tarantulas and "hot" Mojave Green rattlers for show-and-tell. While everyone kept a safe distance, this offered those with cameras a great photo-op.



Later, we drove to a nearby quarry to hammer out chunks of bright milk-and-honey onyx. While climbing that hillside, many collected agate, jasper and chert flat. A few pieces of agatized wood were found. Others drove slightly further to collect brecciated jasper. As the day ended, most returned home, but a few of us returned to the travertine claim for camping and exploring. A few miles away, we found another travertine outcrop but with different colors. These came in darker shades of tans, dark reds, purples, browns and blacks with much swirling in the patterns. We then returned to camp shortly after nightfall.

The following morning we were greeted by two deafening BOOMS which made our heads ring. The Space Shuttle was coming in for a landing at nearby Edwards AFB, and we watched as it made its wide turn for a landing. After meeting a half dozen vehicles bringing in 15 new people, we spent another hour at the travertine claim, then drove to the Boron Dry Lakes for its elusive petrified palm wood. It remained elusive, but much more agate, chapinite and opal were collected from the nearby hills and around the dry lakes. Bill DeVelbiss had returned to tell us that U.S. Borax dumped tons of new tailings in their parking lot for us to collect borate specimens. Driving cross-desert to the mine, it didn't take long for us to fill our bags with large choice borate specimens, some weighing tens of pounds. After a tour of their Visitor's Center, most of us headed for home, but a few remained to continue to explore that mineral-rich part of the Mojave.

After the upcoming tourmaline trip, your CFMS field trip guides will take our own summer vacations and plan on more trips for the fall. Stay tuned!

**From Bill DeVelbiss:** I am a member of the Tehachapi and Mojave societies. My home is near North Edwards, just a few miles south of the Sierra Pelona Travertine claim site, so I was in a great position to participate in the CFMS "Great Onyx Hunt." I met with the group of "ROCKERS" at North Edwards to register for the weekend trip. That was the first time I met Shep Koss. I didn't plan to camp overnight since my home was nearby, but I was looking forward to spend both days with the group to explore the area around my home. I have lived here almost six years, so I am familiar with many of the local rock and mineral sites that so many of us enjoy here locally and the many welcome visitors. After registering, Shep escorted all to

the nearby Sierra Pelona travertine site. What a great group this turned out to be. I am not sure how to measure the success value of this event. It certainly had to do with the effort and knowledge of Shep to organize and coordinate the field trip activities, and also how many new friends I met. Just a great weekend. The first day was organized to dig and explore the Sierra Pelona Travertine claim. Several other nearby mineral sites were explored by some of the group. The second day was just as successful. Shep was the only one to stay overnight at the travertine site. I arrived early and had a one-on-one study session with Shep about the area sites and all the activities he had planned for the day. I left for a couple hours to pick up local friends who would spend the day with me. When I returned, the site was filling with new arrivals and some from the previous day. I was very impressed, but not surprised. The second day's activities included the Boron Dry Lake bed petrified wood area. This requires "hard digging" several feet below ground. There are several well-established holes that have exposed the below grade material that makes the digging process a little easier. We also took time to visit the US Borax Mine Visitor Center. All the group members had the opportunity to collect samples of borax, kernite, colemanite and ulexite from ore piles. I work at the mine in the Engineering Department. We are very proud of our Visitor Center and I was glad Shep Koss allowed me to share this activity with the group. Shep did such a good job to keep this group well informed of the daily activities and coordinated our movements around the area's multiple mineral sites like a pro. He is very knowledgeable about the area, and I learned so much this weekend about area sites I was not familiar with. I am a new member to mineral clubs. This was one of the first organized field trips I have participated in. With all the new friends, what a good experience! Thank you CFMS and Sierra Pelona Rock Club and, especially, Shep for an enjoyable, memorable experience. I have learned that all our clubs are dedicated to activities that promote education of mineralogy. The CFMS field trip was very successful: educational, entertaining, and providing fellowship and friendship for member participants that will last years.

**From Mo:** Thank you so much for leading the Onyx field trip. We would have loved to stay another day except my husband wasn't feeling good. The trip was very enjoyable. For some reason, finding our own rock was very satisfying. Thank you so much for loaning us

equipment and helping get the "milk & honey" onyx. My children loved to find their own "treasure," especially being able to hold their own horned lizard. In fact, they smuggled one up to Orange County until we found out. We had to release it at Camp Pendleton finally.

- Adam & Shep



## **JUNIORS ACTIVITIES** **Creating Education Resource Centers/Kits**

**By Jim Brace-Thompson**

My Ventura club recently entered into a surprisingly inexpensive lease with our County Parks Department to rehab a ranch-style home for a club workshop, a meeting/library room, and a 1-room museum, which we've christened the Ray Meisenheimer Memorial Museum. We're creating installed displays accompanied by smaller, hands-on sets of rocks, minerals, and fossils in cloth-lined plastic tubs that will be easy to take out and utilize. All clubs should create and maintain such educational collections tied to school standards, scout badges, and the AFMS/FRA Badge Program. While these can be extensive, they don't need to be. A lot of learning can be packed into a small collection if it holds just the right rocks.

You should consider at least 4 collections: **1) Earth Processes, the Rock Cycle, & the 3 Rock Types.** This includes igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, along with a laminated diagram showing the rock cycle. (Rock cycle diagrams can be pulled from the web.) To illustrate the rock cycle, I include 4 specimens: igneous *granite*, which weathers into *sand*, which consolidates into sedimentary *sandstone*, which metamorphoses into *quartzite*. **2) Mineral Identification.** Make a laminated chart illustrating the Mohs Scale (again, available from the web), then have specimens of different hardness, i.e., talc, calcite, quartz, corundum. You should also have specimens that illustrate such properties as basic crystal shapes, color, streak, and luster. **3) Earth Resources.** This is a fun collection to create and always attracts attention. Include common products and minerals that went into them (laundry detergent and borate minerals, fishing weights and galena, a copper pipe and copper nuggets, steel nails and hematite, etc.). You can use a small collection for a matching game and as a springboard for kids to think of everyday things not in the collection. **4) Fossils.** A basic

collection would include examples of forms of fossilization (carbonization, molds/casts, replacement, original materials such as enamel shark teeth, etc.). These can be used to illustrate a discussion about what fossils are and how they form. Include a laminated geologic time scale for a discussion of how the earth and life have changed over the eons. These 4 collections will take you a long way with earth science curriculum requirements and will help scouts and FRA members earn badges.

Such collections could either be kept in a permanent location for school field trips and visits by Boy and Girl Scouts, or installed in lightweight cases that could be transported to schools or to the regular meeting locations of scout troops and dens. For a permanent location, you might choose a club member's home or see what arrangements might be made for a modest amount of storage space with the local school district, a nearby university or community college, your local parks and rec department, a museum, or public library. Check around your community for opportunities (if you're lucky, you might stumble into a whole building, like the Ventura club did!), then set up collections for educating while having fun!

- Jim



**SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Charles "Chuck" McKie:**  
**In Memoriam**

**By Jim Brace-Thompson**

While this month's newsletter was being assembled, Chuck McKie's son, Dennis Warren, alerted us to the sad news that Chuck would be unable to continue his post as our Safety Committee Chair. Chuck's health, Dennis reported, was declining rapidly and he had, in fact, been hospitalized and was gravely ill.

Dick Pankey has since informed me that Chuck has passed away. Funeral services were being planned for June 11, but regrettably full details are unavailable as we go to press. Chuck served CFMS in many ways that ultimately led to his being recognized as our 2005 Golden Bear recipient. He served as Field Trips-North Chair for 5 years and as Safety Chair for nearly a decade. Chuck most often delivered the invocation and *in memoriam* to start our CFMS meetings. He will be greatly missed. Susan Chaisson-Walblom has sent a condolence card

and note to Chuck's family on behalf of the CFMS. Let us all keep Chuck's family in our thoughts and prayers.

- Jim



**SCHOLARSHIP - CFMS**  
**Help in Honoring Students & their Studies**

**By Jennifer Haley**

I am really enjoying being your CFMS Scholarship Chairman this year. I am glad I said yes when I was asked if I would like to volunteer for this job. I enjoy the responsibility of putting my heart and mind into the work that feels effortless. It was gratifying to introduce you all to the honorees and students at the April show and convention whether you attended the show or read about them in the newsletter. What tickled me pink was having a couple of the students at the Awards Banquet with us. It was fascinating to hear what these young people are training for, talking about what our favorite rocks were and passing around a loop to look deep into the face of stones some of us bought at the show.

Remember, you are all a part of what makes this special event happen every year. You help nominate the honorees who discover the students in our field who become the recipients of a scholarship. Do help us continue this gratifying tradition by donating to the CFMS Scholarship Fund each year. Thank you!

- Jennifer



**SHOW IDEAS**  
**TV Community Calendars**  
**By Susan Claisson-Walblom**

Apparently, the major Southern California television channels (CBS, ABC, NBC) have community calendars where local groups can share their upcoming events. Last week, I was watching the news when up popped the Rockatomics Show.

I spoke with the show chairperson and learned that they submitted their show information to several of the main channels. They went to the channels' news web sites calendar section, where you can post your local club's activities. What a GREAT source for advertising. Check out your regional outlets!

- Susan



## **NOTES FROM JOHN**

**By John Martin, AFMS  
Conservation & Legislation  
Committee**

### **BLM Central California Advisory Council**

Suzanne Noble is someone that clubs in the central valley and central coast should get to know. She will be on the BLM Central California Advisory Council, representing interests in energy and minerals through September 2011. Please pass this along to anyone in that region who might have collecting interest. This was posted by the BLM: "Suzanne Noble represents energy and mineral interests on the council. She is the manager for Production Regions and State Waste Issues for the Western States Petroleum Assn. Ms. Noble has a bachelor's degree in communications and liberal studies from California State University, Bakersfield and vast experience in public policy, environmental, regulatory and legislative issues related to the oil and gas industry. For the last three years, Ms. Noble has chaired the highly successful California Oil and Gas Work Group, a collaborative partnership consisting of federal, state and regional agencies along with the oil and gas industry. She has expertise in environmental policy, permitting issues, regulatory analysis, legislation, compliance and related issues affecting San Joaquin Valley and coastal oil and gas operations."

### **How To Contact Your Elected Officials**

There are several ways to contact your elected officials. This is only one but maybe the most effective for our purposes. First, bring up the American Lands Access Association web site in your internet browser (<http://www.amlands.org>). On the ALAA Home Page, click on the hyperlink labeled 'Links.' Under the heading "**Contact Information for Congress**" are two subtitles listed: [House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#). Decide on which branch of the Federal Government you want to contact and click on one of the links.

**To contact your Senator:** On the US Senate: Senators Home page, find the 'Choose a State', click on the down arrow to bring up the State menu. Click on the State of interest and the two senators' names and addresses will appear. Click on senators' names and their web site will appear. Somewhere on their web site is a

menu item that says '*Contact Us*' and that should bring up another small window with more options. Select and click on the 'E-mail Me' which will bring up the senators' contact page. Just fill in the blanks and type your comments in the space provided, (you can cut and paste from other sources into the 'Message Block'). There may be a limit on the amount characters that can be entered, so you may have to be careful in the amount of info you input. When finished, just click on "Submit Information" and wait for your answer, which may take several days.

**To contact your Representative:** On the Write Your Representative Home Page: Again, 1. select your state, 2. enter your Zip Code then, 3. Click the "Contact My Representative" button. Your Representative's Home Page will appear. Select 'Send a Message' or 'Contact Me', if required. Fill in the blanks, make your selections and enter your message in the box provided. When finished filling in the required blanks click the [send message] or [submit button] and wait for your answer, it may take several days before you here from your Representative. There are several other options on the Representative Home Page that may be of interest on other topics.

If there is any pending legislation in your state, please let me know the information, The Title, Legislative number and, of course, the state. I will try to do some research and enter the applicable information on the ALAA web site.

- John



## **INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS** **Davis Creek/Lassen Creek**

**By Richard Pankey**

This year's Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous, hosted by NFMS and CFMS, was over Memorial Day weekend at Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for **OBSIDIAN!!!** This is the premier California obsidian collecting area, with a great variety of beautiful obsidian in abundance. The area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. The area is on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest, in the extreme northeast corner of California on Hwy. 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. The collecting area is in the

mountains behind the town of Davis Creek, 22 miles north of Alturas.

Unlike last year's Rendezvous to Texas Springs, the weather was fantastic!! No rain, no wind. Just sunshine and mild temperatures. Betty and I arrived on Tuesday to put out the signs directing people to camp, about 5.5 miles off of the highway, and to be ready to welcome rockhounds to the Rendezvous. Our camp was at Lassen Creek Campground, beautiful and spacious, with ample room for our group and our planned activities. There is a stream and tall pine trees. The first thing I saw as we arrived at camp was that 2 of the pine trees had blown down and were blocking the road from camp to the collecting sites. Fortunately, I had good tow straps and was able to pull them off the road before our trips. By early afternoon some early-bird rockhounds had pulled into camp.

The purpose of a Rendezvous is to get people from around the AFMS, from the Regional Federations, together to collect rocks and to get to know one another. I believe we accomplished that goal. We had over 80 members and guests from 3 Federations and 25 different societies who ranged in age from 3 to 85 years old. A father-son team from Florida, **Jason and Craig Hamilton**, was on a 3 week cross country collecting/site seeing trip and joined us for 2 days. We spent 4 days collecting some great obsidian at 6 different sites. We enjoyed 2 potluck dinners, afternoon happy hours, and evening campfires. On Thursday and Friday afternoon we had a rock swap and a map exchange. On both afternoons the knappers had a "knapp-in" showing how it is done and teaching classes. **Jim Baker** from Jackson, CA demonstrated and taught percussion knapping and **Cliff Swenson** from Grass Valley, CA and **Marty Carswell** from Volcano, CA demonstrated and taught the pressure flaking technique. Each evening our "campfire girl" **Debbie Wojtowicz** from Pleasant Hill CA started our fire and kept it well fueled with all of the donated fire wood. Of course there were marshmallows to roast and one evening we had "dough-on-a-dowel" (refrigerated biscuits cooked over the campfire on a special stick, filled with cherry pie filling and topped with whipped cream.) They were a special treat and the conversation that night was hilarious. **Gordon Roberts** from Boise. ID got out his guitar at a couple of campfires and

played and sang for us. It wasn't long before other singers joined in.

Saturday evening was the All Rendezvous Potluck dinner. Great food and great deserts. No one left hungry. A real highlight at dinner was a raffle of beautiful polished sheen obsidian cabs and free-form specimens donated by **Glen Ripper** from Bonny Lake, WA. Also, **Betty Pankey** donated 2 stained-glass hummingbirds with needle obsidian beaks and **Cliff Swenson** donated a knapped obsidian knife.

Oh yes, we came here to collect obsidian! There are 4 designated dig sites at Davis Creek/Lassen Creek and many other surface collecting areas. Each day we had led trips to one or two of the main dig sites. I led one group and **Steve Duncan** from Orange, CA would lead the other group. We assembled each morning at 8:00 for information about the sites, instructions, safety information, and announcements of the other activities for the day. We lined up our vehicles and headed down the road at 8:30. This area is managed by the Modoc National Forest office in Alturas. Unlike many National Forest Management plans this office recognizes and allows casual rockhounding and surface collecting. A free collecting permit is required for the 4 designated dig sites: Needles, Electric Blue, Rainbow and Pink Lady. This permit allows for collecting of up to 500 lbs. of obsidian a year. For surface collecting you are allowed one 5-gallon bucket per day. No matter what, that is a lot of obsidian. Unfortunately the roads to the top of Buck Mountain (7500 ft.) were still snowed in and we could not get to the Pink Lady dig site or to the mahogany gold sheen or lace obsidian sites.

The dig sites are the main attraction. As the classic rockhound saying goes "dig where others have dug." And that is true at the Needles, Rainbow and Electric Blue sites. There are many pits to choose from and it is just a matter of choosing one and start digging. Good obsidian is often showing in the pit which is a good sign. When collecting sheen obsidian good sunlight, and proper orientation is important. I found many good pieces that were thrown away by inexperienced diggers in their discard piles. I spent time showing new people how to "window" (knock off a chip) and orient the obsidian to find the sheen. Soon with a little practice they were finding the good obsidian in the discard piles also. Since it was early in the season the ground was still wet and

the digging was easy. Most people that were digging were finding baseball to football size pieces but a few 75 to 100 plus pound pieces were found. Most of the sheen obsidian at the Rainbow site is multi-colored red-green-blue. Some grey sheen and "wood grained" grey obsidian can be found. As the name implies much of the sheen obsidian at the Electric Blue site is a striking, vivid blue, but vivid green and purple can be found. Occasionally you can find silver sheen and rarely some gold sheen. The Needles site has some really interesting material. As the name indicates the obsidian found here are "slivers" of obsidian ranging in size from a sewing needle to 10 inches long to 20 inches long. Needles are dug commercially and by rockhounds to make delicate wind chimes. At the Needles site you can also find mahogany obsidian and nodules that contain various colors of sheen. The commercial diggers are only after the larger, longer needles and are happy to give away the mahogany obsidian and nodules.

There were 4 self guided, surface collecting sites for apache tears, dacite, cristobalite, and banded sheen. The apache tears were in a road cut beside the highway. They were not the classic smooth round pieces. Many were chunky and odd shaped, but still good for grab bags. The cristobalite is found on the side of the road to camp. The cristobalites look like gray, ash "geodes" dispersed in the obsidian. Not much good for anything but they are an interesting specimen. Dacite is medium grey, opaque and fractures conchoidally like obsidian. About half way between camp and the Rainbow site are several acres of banded sheen obsidian on the surface. Although not as attractive as the colored sheens it is good obsidian for knapping and other projects.

This was another great Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous of Rockhounds coming together to do and share all the things we like to do. Rockhounds from many societies and Federations getting together to collect rocks, enjoy the beauty of our great country, meeting one another and making new friends. Now the big question: Where will our next Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous (or event) be? That will depend on *who* and *which Federation* picks up the ball and would like to host it. As much as I would like to, I can't plan and lead all of the field trips all over the AFMS. That is why we have the ad hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip Committee made up of representatives from all Federations. Any society, regional group or

Federation that has an idea and location for an inter-regional field trip can and is encouraged to host a trip. A key to organizing a successful (well-attended) inter-regional event is to start planning early, at least 6 months and preferably 9 months before the chosen date. And announce it early so that your intended participants can start making their plans. The second key step is getting the word out to your intended participants. A difference between an "Inter-Regional Field Trip" and a Federation field trip or a club trip often comes down to who is invited, how the trip is promoted and where it is promoted. You will want as much and as wide spread publicity as you can get. You want your event announced and publicized in as many newsletters and web sites as possible – AFMS, Regional Federations, local clubs and societies.

Now is the time to start planning next year's field trips and events.

- Dick



**AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**ALAA Annual Meeting**

**By Richard Pankey**  
**President, ALAA**

The American Land Access Association will hold its annual meeting at the NWF/AFMS convention at Billings, MT, 3:00-5:00 PM on Saturday, August 1 in the Cottonwood Room at the convention hotel. This is the **business meeting** for ALAA, where we will elect our directors and officers, have officer and committee reports, and vote on Bylaw revisions and Operating Procedures. The **work** of ALAA takes place throughout the year by our officers, directors, committees, at regional Federation conventions and the actions of our members.

Featured speaker will be Greg Mumm of Blue Ribbon Coalition, the National Organization who is fighting to keep roads open on Federal Lands. Also attending will be our Canadian friends who are experiences the same collecting problems in their Provinces.

This is an important meeting for ALAA since our 2008 meeting in Houston was canceled because of the hurricane. All officers, directors, committee people are strongly encouraged to attend. All AFMS society members are invited and welcome.

- Dick



## A.L.A.A. (cont.) You Are Invited!

By Shirley Leeson, ALAA Vice  
President

Regarding the upcoming ALAA meeting that I announced in last month's newsletter, I made a mistake and put Saturday, August 2; the correct date, as noted in Dick Pankey's article above, is Saturday, August 1. Apologies for the error, and we hope to see you there!

For those of you who are attending the AFMS/NFMS show July 28 - August 2 in Billings, Montana, on Friday evening there will be an informal cracker barrel meeting of Canadian and American rockhounds. The informal agenda covers field tripping on both sides of the border and the possible consequences. In addition, we'll provide an introduction of ALAA and what we are trying to accomplish. Please try to attend. This meeting could prove significant and is open to the public.

- Shirley



*Use the Rockhound Sticker on envelopes when mailing to other rockhounds, your elected representatives and governmental agencies.*

## AFMS/NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

JULY 30, 31 AUGUST 1, 2 2009



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CJ Quitoriano (Ray)  
7968 Elder Avenue  
Rosamond, CA 93560  
(661) 209-9092  
cjqu\_62@yahoo.com  
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

## **TREASURER**

Bud McMillin (Terry)  
1717 Oakdale Rd., Ste. O  
Modesto, CA 95355  
(209) 524-3494  
bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com  
Mother Lode Mineral Society

## **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Fred Ott (Susan)  
3420 Coach Lane # 4  
Cameron Park, CA 95682  
(530) 677-5211, work  
Fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com  
El Dorado Gem & Mineral Soc.

## **SECRETARY**

Susan Chaisson-Walblom (David)  
42122 N 52nd Street West  
Quartz Hill, CA 95356  
(661) 943-1861  
SLChaisson@yahoo.com  
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club

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7319 Eisenhower Street  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 659-3577  
jbraceth@roadrunner.com  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

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Pat LaRue (Bural)  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657  
(909) 874-5664  
bplarue@earthlink.net  
Valley Prospectors  
(408) 245-2180  
mustersgems@yahoo.com

## **ALL AMERICAN CLUB**

Dorothy (Dot) Beachler, Chair  
89 Buckskin Lane  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
(310) 325-3139  
dotbeachler@cox.net

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Doug Arnold, Chair  
PO Box 720466  
Pinon Hills, CA 92329  
(760) 885-7409  
oldjasper@verizon.net

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Ruth Bailey, Chair  
2857 Addison Place  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705  
(408) 248-6195  
rba51825@aol.com

## **Theresa Kokinos (Mike)**

4620 Doe Street  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8478  
(530) 677-9333  
zeileitz@directcon.net

## **CFMS CAB CASES - NORTH**

Mary Ann King  
300 East H Street, #55  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 747-5186

## **CAB CASES - SOUTH**

Robert Backus  
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## **CFMS REP TO AFMS**

Colleen McGann  
PO Box 224  
Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224  
(831) 212-1951  
Colleen.mcgann@hds.com

## **EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES**

Marion Roberts (Vivien), Chair  
1505 Plumas Ave  
Modesto, CA 95358  
(209) 538-0197  
mvroberts@bigvalley.net

Anna Christensen (Coordinator-North)  
245 N. Sixth Street  
Oakdale, Ca. 95361-3124

Audrey Harvey (Coordinator-South)  
3363 Tuxford Place  
Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91360  
(805) 492-2253

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20904 Trigger Lane  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-3469  
(909) 598-2456  
donogden@aol.com

Nancy Bird, Assistant  
1001 Lambert Road, Sp 18  
La Habra, CA 90631  
nancybird@earthlink.net

## **ENDOWMENT FUND -CFMS**

Ray Quitoriano (CJ)  
7968 Elder Ave  
Rosamond, CA 93560  
(661) 209-9093  
rquito@yahoo.com  
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

CJ Quitoriano, (see President)  
Fred Ott (see 1st VP)

## **FIELD TRIPS - NORTH**

Dave Muster  
1177 Oxford Way  
Stockton, CA 95204-3040

## **FIELD TRIPS - SOUTH**

Shep Koss Co-Chair  
PO Box 1972  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(661) 248-0411 (home, not cell)  
theshepster@webtv.net

## **Adam Dean, Co-Chair**

(909) 489-4899  
theagatehunter@verizon.net

## **FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Don Warthen, Chair  
15455 Tetley  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
(626) 330-8974  
odwarthen@verizon.net

## **Earl Liston**

11309 Felsen Street  
Cerritos, CA 90703  
(562) 865-1348  
eliston@verizon.net

## **Roy Foerster**

1408 Norman Avenue  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-3522  
(805) 373-1569

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## **Isabella Burns (Bill)**

1038 Bradshaw Avenue  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
(626) 288-2896  
isnbll@aol.com

CJ Quitoriano (see President)

Bural Larue (see Long Range Plan.)

## **HISTORIAN**

Shirley Leeson  
6155 Haas St  
La Mesa, CA 91942-4312  
(619) 460-6128  
shirleyleeson@cox.net

beauholland@centurytel.net

## **INSURANCE**

Bud McMillin (see Treasurer)

**INTERNET COMMITTEE**

Donald Ogden, Chair (Loretta)  
20904 Trigger Lane  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-3469  
(909) 598-2456  
donogden@aol.com

Jay Valle (Kathy)  
1421 Latchford Ave  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
(626) 934-9764  
res19pnb@verizon.net

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Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair (see 2nd VP)

Susan Chaisson-Walblom (see Secretary)  
Terry McMillin (see Demonstrator Directory)  
June Harris, juneconeyharris@yahoo.com  
Ismael Sanchez, (661) 301-4609

**LEGAL ADVISOR**

Jean Klotz (Morton)  
2828 Easy Street  
Placerville, CA 95667-3907  
(530) 642-0881 (Office)

**LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Bural LaRue (Pat)  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377  
(909) 874-5664 / (951) 233-9036 (cell)  
bplarue@earthlink.net

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P.O. Box 255702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-5702  
(916) 929-6665  
fossilsff@aol.com

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Ruth Bailey, Chair  
2857 Addison Place  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705  
(408) 248-6195  
rba51825@aol.com

**PROGRAM AIDS**

Ted Magee (Paula)  
2633 Maxine Drive  
Modesto, CA 95350-2432  
(209) 571-3185  
tedmagee1@msn.com  
tedmagee@att.net

**PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY - NORTH**

Norvie Enns (Virginia), Chair  
1485 West 4th Street #10  
Reno, NV 89503-5002  
(775) 786-9887  
nve5103@charter.net

Frank Monez  
407 Bluefield Drive  
San Jose, CA 95136-2004  
(408) 578-7067  
frankm2@sbcglobal.net

Glen Miller  
2455 Annette Dr.  
Redding, CA 96001  
530-247-6951  
miller3987@sbcglobal.net

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(760) 356-2361

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875 E 4500 S  
South Ogden, UT 84403-2931  
(801)-479-4286 (home)  
(801)-791-2828 (cell)  
Roxhund@aol.com

Dee Holland (see Shirley Leeson, Historian)  
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Richard Friesen, dandjfriesen@gmail.com  
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1012 Mockingbird Lane  
Fairfield, CA 94533-2426  
(707) 425-9030  
chuckmckie@aol.com

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Betty Pankey, Chair (Dick)  
4310 Kingsly Drive  
Pittsburg, CA 94565-6267  
(925) 439-7509  
dickpankey@juno.com

**SCHOLARSHIP CFMS**

Jennifer Haley, Chair (Michael)  
5442 Washington St.  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 252-7565  
ladybuglane@napablogger.com

Jo Anna Ritchey (Ray)  
224 Oaks Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016-2115  
(626) 359-1624  
joannaritchey@gmail.com

Bural Larue (see Long Range Planning)  
Bud McMillin (see Treasurer)

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**SEND ALL CHECKS TO PAT LARUE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREAS.  
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Jack Williams (Judy)  
2608 Retirement Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667-3027  
(530) 622-3038  
jwilliams08@comcast.net

**SHOW CONSULTANT - SOUTH**

Bob Stultz (Jeane)  
757 Bellagio Terrace  
Redding, CA 96003  
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Susan Chaisson-Walblom (see Secretary)

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**TAX ADVISOR**

Mike Kokinos (Theresa)  
4620 Doe Street  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8478  
(530) 677-9333  
zeileitz@directcon.net

Pat La Rue (see Executive Secretary/Treasurer)

**TROPHY COORDINATOR**

Frank Mullaney (Julaine)  
5705 Begonia Drive  
San Jose, CA 95124-6535  
(408) 266-1791  
rockyfv@aol.com

**AD HOC COMMITTEES****MEMBERSHIP**

Omer Goeden (Kay), Chair  
9801 Amanita  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
(818) 353-9279  
sageit@aol.com

Elizabeth Myers (Ernie)  
35705 San Antonio Valley Rd  
Livermore, CA  
(408) 987-3060  
eme2@wildblue.net

Colleen McGann (see CFMS Rep to AFMS)  
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**DEMONSTRATOR DIRECTORY**

Terry McMillin (Bud)  
1717 Oakdale Rd., Ste. O  
Modesto, CA 95355  
(209) 524-3494  
terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com

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**Show Dates**  
**42122 52<sup>nd</sup> St. West,**  
**Quartz Hill, CA 93536**  
**Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com**

**2009**

**JULY 11 & 12: CULVER CITY, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium / Rotunda  
4117 Culver Boulevard  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Robert Thirlaway (310) 213-7677  
thirlawr@gmail.com  
CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm

**AUGUST 1 & 2: SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
San Francisco Co. Fair Building  
9<sup>th</sup> Ave & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Carleen Mont-Eton (415) 564-4230  
publicity@show.sfgms.org  
http://www.sfgms.org

**AUGUST 7, 8 & 9: NIPOMO, CA**

Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Avenue  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788  
Rocks4u@prodigy.net  
http://www.omsinc.org

**AUGUST 14, 15 & 16: TEHACHAPI, CA**

Tehachapi Gem & Mineral Society  
St. Malachy Catholic Church  
407 West E Street  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 8-7:30; Sun. 8-5:30  
Chuck Overall (661) 821-4650  
Luckydog5433@aol.com

**AUGUST 22-23: ORANGEVALE**

Orangevale Community Center  
6826 Hazel Avenue  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
David Moulder, (916) 290-3193  
www.treasuretroveofgems.com  
Although not a club show, members  
of El Dorado and Stockton societies  
are participating, and proceeds are  
supporting the nonprofit Sierra  
Family Services.

**SEPTEMBER 4-7: FORT BRAGG, CA**

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
Town Hall  
Corner of Main & Laurel  
Hours: Fri.-Sun. 10-6; Mon. 10-4  
Don McDonell (707) 964-3116

**SEPTEMBER 12 & 13: VISTA, CA**

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Sante Fe Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Fred Wilson (760) 433-8446  
Cherie Wilson (760) 941-7073  
Lois Harr (760) 724-0395

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20: PASO ROBLES**

Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park and Museum  
2010 Riverside Avenue  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily  
Richard Smithen (805) 467-2966  
Call (805) 423-3092  
jonme2@wildblue.net

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20: Redwood City**

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Redwood City Community Activities Bldg.  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue  
Hours: 10am – 5 pm daily  
Carol Corden (650) 248-7155  
ccorden@comcast.net  
sgms.drifmine.com

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20: STOCKTON, CA**

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 W. Alpine Avenue  
Hours: 10am – 5pm daily  
Nettie Meissner (209) 858-2263  
footsey1@yahoo.com  
Stocktonlapidary.com

**SEPTEMBER 26 & 27: MONTEREY, CA**

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Road  
Hours: Sat 10am-6pm; Sun. 10am-5pm  
Sky Paxton (831) 262-2492  
sky@familystones.net  
Janis Rovetti (831) 657-1933  
Janis12@sbcglobal.net  
www.cvgms.org

**SEPTEMBER 26 & 27: DOWNEY, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun. 10-4  
Nancy Bird (562) 697- 0636  
nancybird@verizon.net

**OCTOBER 3 & 4: FALLBROOK, CA**

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral & Museum  
123 W. Alvarado Street  
Hours: 10am-4pm daily  
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130  
ikonmiming@gmail.com

**OCTOBER 3 & 4: Oroville, CA**

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Club  
Oroville Municipal Auditorium  
1200 Myers Street, Oroville  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4  
Connie Rossetto (530) 589-1840  
crossetto@aol.com www.oroillerrocks.com

**OCTOBER 10 & 11: TRONA, CA**

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building  
13337 Main Street  
Sat. 7:30am-5pm; Sun. 7:30am-4pm  
Jim & Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356  
sigms@iwwisp.com  
http://www1.iwwisp.com/tronagemclub

**OCTOBER 10 & 11: GRASS VALLEY, CA**

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
Nevada County Fairgrounds  
11228 McCourtney Road  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily  
Kim Moore (530) 470-0388  
kmoore160@comcast.net  
www.ncgms.org

**OCTOBER 17 & 18: PLACERVILLE, CA**

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society  
El Dorado County Fairgrounds  
100 Placerville Drive  
Hours: 10 am – 5:00 pm daily  
Jackie Cerrato (530) 676-2472  
info@rockandgemshow.org  
http://www.rockandgemshow.org

**OCTOBER 17: WEST HILLS, CA**

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.  
First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm  
Mary Beth Pio (818) 716-7612  
show@rockchippers.org  
www.rockchippers.org

**OCTOBER 17 & 18: LAKESIDE, CA**

El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds  
12684 Mapleview Avenue  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm Daily  
Carolyn Boland (619) 561-7498  
bobpeggyb99@aol.com  
www.ECVGMS.com

**OCTOBER 17 & 18: Santa Rosa, Ca**

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society  
Santa Rosa Veterans Building  
1351 Maple Ave. (opposite Fairgrounds)  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Kendra  
Summer\_skys\_27@yahoo.com  
http://www.gem-n-i.org

**OCTOBER 17 & 18: ANDERSON, CA**

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society  
Shasta District Fairgrounds  
Near Redding off Hwy 273  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Steve Puderbaugh (530) 365-4000

**OCTOBER 24 & 25: LOS ALTOS, CA**

Peninsula Gem & Mineral Society  
Los Altos Civic Center Youth Center  
One San Antonio Road  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily  
Dave Muster (408) 245-2180  
mustersrgems@yahoo.com

**NOVEMBER 7&8: CONCORD, CA**

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society  
Centre Concord  
5298 Clayton Road (Ygnacio & Cla)  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily  
Harry Nichandros  
show2009@ccmgs.org  
http://ccmgs.org

**NOVEMBER 7 & 8: LANCASTER, CA**  
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14, Lancaster  
Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Daily  
Susan Chaisson-Walblom(661)943-1861  
slchaisson@yahoo.com  
www.palmdalegems.org

**NOVEMBER 7 & 8: RIDGECREST, CA**  
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
Desert Empire Fairgrounds  
520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest  
Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Daily  
John DeRosa (760) 375-7905  
schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us

**NOVEMBER 14 & 15: YUBA CITY, CA**  
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society  
Franklin Hall, Yuba/Sutter Fairgrounds  
442 Franklin Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4  
Bruce Roberts (530) 675-2864

**NOVEMBER 21 & 22: OXNARD, CA**  
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center  
800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4  
Norb Kinsler (805) 644-6450  
Show\_info@oxnardgem.com  
www.oxnardgem.com

**NOVEMBER 21 & 22: LIVERMORE, CA**  
Livermore Vallet Lithophiles  
At The Barn  
Pacific Ave. at So. Livermore Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
info@lithophiles.com  
www.lithophiles.com

**DECEMBER 5 & 6: BARSTOW, CA**  
Mojave Gem & Mineral Society  
Community Center  
841 Barstow Road  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm Daily  
Gene Haines (760) 256-0595  
janetwentz@earthlink.net  
mdgms.org



*Due to requests to post other regional federation shows, we offer the following:*

**JULY 30-AUG 2: BILLINGS, MONTANA**  
Northwest Fed / AFMS Combined Show  
Hosted by Billings Gem & Mineral Club  
Holiday Inn Grand Montana  
5500 Midland Rd, Billings, MT  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Doug True, (406) 670-0506  
Society web site:  
www.amfed.org/nfms  
Show web site:  
www.amfed.org/nfms/nfmsshow.htm

**OCTOBER 3-4: ROSWELL, NM**  
Rocky Mountain Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies  
Roswell Civic Center  
Hours: Sat., 9-5; Sun. 9-4  
www.rmfmms.org

**OCTOBER 10-11: TEMPLE, TX**  
South Central Federation of Mineral  
Societies  
Hosted by Tri-Cities G&MC  
Mayborn Civic Center  
Hours: Sat. 9-6; Sun. 10-5  
www.scfms.net

**OCTOBER 17-18: BRISTOL, CT**  
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical &  
Lapidary Societies  
Hosted by Bristol G&MC  
Beals Community Center  
240 Stafford Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4  
Bristolgem@hotmail.com  
www.Bristolgem.org

**DATE/PLACE TBD**  
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical  
Societies  
Info not yet posted  
www.amfed.org/sfms

**MARCH 6 & 7: VENTURA, CA**  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds  
10 W. Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 – 4  
Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043  
vgms\_editor@roadrunner.com  
www.vgms.org

**NOVEMBER : LANCASTER, CA**  
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9am – 5pm daily  
SusanChaisson-Walblom(661) 943-1861  
slchaisson@yahoo.com  
www.palmdalegems.org

*Don't forget to turn your Show info in as soon as it is available!!!*

**If you have an idea for bettering a Club Show you would like to share, please let me know!**