



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXI #9

October 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marcia Goetz

Hello Fellow Rock Friends,

I hope all is well with everyone and I'm looking forward to seeing the Directors and Chairs at the Annual Meeting in Visalia...it's just around the corner so to speak. It is important that societies send a representative so we have a quorum for voting. On the agenda will be the election of the Executive Committee for 2025, and the Nominating Committee has no doubt been busy behind the scenes working on the slate of nominees.

An item the EC will look at is in regard to the DVD collection for societies to use for programs. Sharon Rogow says there are hardly any societies that borrow them anymore. I remember when we discussed what to do with the VCRs not long ago because they weren't being used and most clubs had DVD players instead of VCR players. Now the issue is lack of use. I don't know if it is because there are more live speakers available for meetings or if we've gotten more creative for club programs thus not needing the CFMS library of DVDs as much.

I want to remind those societies that get the Officers and Directors Insurance that Patt McDaniel has sent out the renewal form already. If you haven't received it please check our website (CFMSinc.org) and check the Insurance Forms page or get in touch with Patt McDaniel.

I thought I'd ask again if your society has considered hosting a CFMS Show and Convention? There was a time (long long ago) that there would be several societies bidding to hold the show and convention. Typically, I've seen that when a society hosts a show they gain members because of the extra exposure. The Pasadena Lapidary Society (my club) still likes to reminisce about the shows we hosted - it does give the society a sense of accomplishment. CFMS has a Chairperson available to help you with the planning so you don't feel all alone without direction.

A reminder to the people who receive these newsletters to pass them on to your President and other board members so they are aware of what is going on with CFMS. Hard copies are not being sent out anymore so your Boards will rely on you to forward to them.



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Marcia Goetz

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 5..... Deadline for Nov Newsletter
Nov 5..... Deadline for Dec Newsletter
Nov 8-10..... Fall Business Meeting Visalia

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

McDaniel Insurance Services
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024
Tel (805) 646-9948 or (800) 400-7288
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

Ellen Ferrell
1392 Bouquet Dr. #A
Upland, CA 91786-3358
(727) 512-0381
ellenbf2007@aol.com

CFMS 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: \$10 per year, January through December. Newsletters are also available for download on the CFMS website. No password required.

CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website. Be sure to cite the source.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent to the editor at bplarue@earthlink.net. "Snail mail"? Please send to the CFMS PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Articles without a byline are written by the editor.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$250 or more, a letter attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the following:

- CFMS Scholarship Fund
- CFMS Endowment Fund
- CFMS General Fund
- Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- AFMS Scholarship Foundation
- AFMS Endowment Fund
- Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
- Facilities Development Fund

Your donations should be sent to:
Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.

FALL BUSINESS MEETING REPORTS

By Pat LaRue, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Committee reports are due no later than **October 25**. This allows me sufficient time to reformat as needed and get everything duplicated for the Directors packets. If unable to meet this deadline please bring 75 copies of your report for distribution at the meeting. As in years past, I no longer mail unclaimed packets to those clubs who do not have a representative at the meeting or arrange for someone from a nearby club to pick one up for you.

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

By Pat LaRue, Exec Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting and election of 2025 Officers will be held November 8-10, 2024 at the Wyndham-Visalia, off Hwy 198 in Visalia, CA. For those who have not been to this location in the past, take Hwy 198 exit east from Hwy 99. You will see the hotel located just south of the first off ramp past the airport.

Room reservations can be made by phone at **(559) 651-5000**. To receive the special CFMS rate of \$102 per night, tell them you are with CFMS. Cut-off date for this price is **October 25, 2024**. The group code is 110724CAF. The first night's deposit or guarantee by credit card must accompany your reservation. Do not make reservations through the website; call them directly.

An informal **Cracker Barrel** will be held **Friday** evening at **7:30 p.m.** As in the past, hotel policy forbids our bringing snack foods to any of the meetings. The **Business Meeting** will be called to order on Saturday, **November 9 at 9 a.m.** Join us at the **Banquet** that Saturday evening. The incoming president will have a brief meeting of the 2025 committees Sunday morning. Time to be announced.

Banquet Menu Lemon Pepper Chicken

Marinated and Grilled 6 Oz Breast of Chicken Served in a White Wine Sauce with Lemon, Shallots and Peppercorns
Roasted Red Potatoes
Baby Carrots
Mixed Baby Greens Salad
Dinner Rolls with Butter
New York Style Cheesecake

\$45 tax and gratuity included.

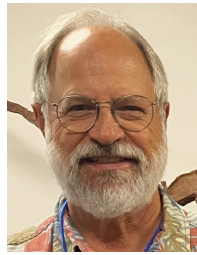
Vegetarian and gluten free options available upon request.

A cocktail server will be available to take your drink orders and deliver them to the room.

Make banquet reservations by November 1, 2024.

Mail your check payable to CFMS to:

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

Encourage Your Club's Kids to Become Ace Reporters!

Do you have kids in your society who love to write? Kids who periodically submit articles for your local club newsletter? Help elevate them to the national stage!

As part of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program, Dennis Gertenbach puts together *Crack the News*, a newsletter "for kids and teens written by kids and teens." You



can check out previous issues on the AFMS website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. Dennis is soliciting material for the next issue, be it a hobby-related article, poem, cartoon, photo, or drawing, or even a rockhound joke. A note to local newsletter editors out there - they also accept articles and other content that has already appeared in a club newsletter. This opportunity is open to any kids under 18 years of age who belong to a federation-affiliated society, and full details on how to go about submitting material may be found on the web link noted above. If you have questions about content or procedures, send them to youth@amfed.org.

As if bragging rights of having a nationally published article weren't enough, every youth who has a submission published earns a patch and anyone entering 5 or more times earns a quartz crystal geode! Plus, it counts toward earning the Communication badge in the AFMS/FRA Badge Program and may become eligible for an award during the annual federation bulletin contests. So don't hold back! Encourage kids in your society to break out a 1923 Underwood typewriter and start clacking away to become a nationally syndicated ace reporter!

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION REMINDER

By Pat LaRue, Editor

As previously announced, this is a reminder that physical copies of the CFMS Newsletter are no longer "snail" mailed. The newsletter will be emailed to those persons on the mailing list for whom I have a valid email address. Many of you are already receiving an emailed (digital) newsletter as part of Marcia's electronic communications mailings because you are the Federation Director for your society/club. I am still in the process of compiling email addresses that were provided on the Officer Change Forms submitted earlier in the year.

If you are unsure if I have your email address, please send it to me as soon as possible so it will be included on the mailing list. If you are already receiving an emailed newsletter, let me know and I'll remove you from my list so you don't get too many duplicates.

CFMS SHOWS OF THE FUTURE CFMS NEEDS YOU!

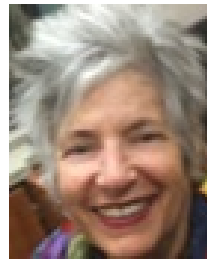
By Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Show Consultant-South

We are still currently looking for Host Clubs/Societies for 2025, 2026, 2027 California Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual Show & Convention. Each year the CFMS Show & Convention travels around the state to different venues. Ideally the annual Show & Convention would be held one year in Southern California and the next in Northern California and so on.

The Federation Show itself is not that different than hosting your own club show. In addition, you get to host the Cracker Barrel, Directors Meeting, Board Meeting, Competitive Exhibits and Awards Dinner.

Hosting the CFMS State Show & Convention can be a very rewarding experience. It can help you grow your membership, earn extra income for your club and help building a returning vendor base for your own club's annual shows.

Please contact me for further information on hosting a future CFMS Show & Convention at slchaisson@yahoo.com.



CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

With the Endowment Fund being a stable underlying source of income to financially assist the programs and services that CFMS provides to its members, we greatly appreciate the member clubs and individuals who donate money, rock related items and jewelry.

Donations may be made for many reasons, among those being, "in memory of", "in honor of", "in celebration of" or for any other reason that your creative mind may choose, or for no reason at all, just to feel good! Between now and the next CFMS Show, your donations will be especially appreciated. When we receive items in advance, we can better plan how to categorize for best use at the show, and as usual, the Endowment Fund will have two or three tables set up where we will be selling a variety of donated items including handmade, natural and commercially produced items. We will have a roulette wheel also for kids of all ages and where everyone wins!

Donations may be made by a number of methods: using the form that is in the newsletter, delivering a check at a business meeting (there are two per year) or bringing checks or items to the Endowment Fund Table at CFMS Shows. Additionally checks may be mailed to Pat LaRue at: CFMS, PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657 or bring whatever you have to the event/meeting in Visalia in November. It's time now to make your hotel and banquet reservations. Information is in the newsletter. Send rock, gem, mineral, jewelry and related items to: Sharon Rogow, PO Box 35078, Las Vegas, NV, 89133-5078

All proceeds go to the Endowment Fund



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward - 2024 CFMS ROTY Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is proud to present the following inductees into our 'Rockhound of the Year' program. Keep sending me your submissions!

Scott Gray - Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

As we kick off the fall season of rockhounding, we thought it would be good if we introduced and told you about a prized club member. If you have been with the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club for the last two years, you probably will know who our Wagonmaster is at the club. His name is Scott Gray. He and his wife Sasha, have been with the club 3 years this October. Their anniversary is this month, and they have been together 23 years. They have three children together; Sean, who is the oldest at 30 years, Charlie at 25 years and Justin at 16 years. Together they are what I envision as the "rockhound family" in today's America. A hard-working man, a hardworking woman and the kids, that they've taken on hunts, events, and different states for rockhounding adventures. During the last 2 years that I have been with the club, I think I've been on 12 or so field trips with Scott and the first thing that stood out was his way with people. He will talk with all club members and guests that come on these trips. He explains what we can find and tries to show samples at each different event. He and many times Sasha, his wife, will go out and scout locations, not only just the regular sites, but out and beyond them for those elusive locations that often provide interesting contrasts to what was being found in different quantities. Scott also loves to check out new spots, and places the members have not been to before. He is an adventurer at heart, and that heart is golden. He always will help, whether at the shop or in the field to identify specimens that have been found and brought in. If he does not know, he will take the time to figure it out and let you know. His phone, with GPS, land owner information, and access to maps on line, allows him to be an adventurer and still be able to stay safe, and within the legalities of other people's properties, as well as BLM rules and regulations. Scott has also been known to help with stuck vehicles, and other roadside dilemmas. In his truck, he carries extra tools to share out in the field with other rockhounds. A bit more; Scott also got 4th place in the World Tumbling Championship. Scott is also able to write previews of trips, articles on trips and he

did book reports on rock related books in a half dozen issues of our newsletter *The Bulletin*. Scott has taken at least 3 groups to the Stoddard Wells Tailgate Show on the Saturday of the three-day event. 9:00 am is always the takeoff time and the trip can last a few hours. We go to the mountain just behind the Tailgate show, and it takes a high wheelbase and 4 X 4 to make it safely. Those that go, love the field trip, and Scott. You know at many of his field trips there are up to mid-20's of vehicles, and as high as 40+ visitors, depending on the site he takes us. Some of the sites he has led us to are Kramer Junction, Yermo Early Man & Surrounds, Lavic Siding, Crayon Canyon, Opal Mt 4x4 trip, Scouts Cove, Princess Pat Mine UV evening trip, the North Cady Mountains, South Cady Mountains, Hector Hills, Jasper Hill, Tri Color Marble Stoddard Wells Tailgate, Gephardt Road & Boron Area, AND MORE. All in all, the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club is very proud to name Scott Gray our Rockhound of the Year for 2024.

Submitted by: Jake Brouwer - Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Debbie Hirlinger - Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

She's presently serving as Corporate Administrator, doing a great job. She often acts as President pro tem as our President lives far away. She presented a program and showed the members samples of rocks from the CFMS Hauser Geode Beds Field trip in April, told about the rough road and how she had borrowed a 4-wheel drive vehicle for a hair-raising trip out to the beds. Gave a show-and-tell about her visit to the Arkansas diamond-hunting area in May with her friend Linda and how lots of people worked real hard to find a lot of nothing. Also did a show-and-tell at our meeting about her and her friend Linda's trip to the Herkimer Diamond Mine in New York, they each bought grab bags and she had a tube with her diamonds in it. She's always bright and sunny, livens up every meeting, and is one of the most reliable members of the organization. She and Barbara take the club showcase to shows, set it up, enjoy the show and then break it down, bring it on back, ready for the next one.

Submitted by: Celia Barnett - Federation Director
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers



2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dick White, Committee Member

The 2024 CFMS Nominating Committee has been searching for possible nominees for the 2025 CFMS Executive Board. The following are recommended as nominees for the 2025 CFMS Executive Board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

Secretary: Currently still searching for a nominee for this position. Nominations will be accepted at the Directors Meeting from the floor.

Treasurer: Incumbent, Bob Papac

2nd Vice President: Frank Van Hecke (2024 CFMS Secretary)

1st Vice President: Diane Cook (2024 CFMS 2nd Vice President)

President: Susan Chaisson-Walblom (2024 1st Vice President and Past CFMS President 2012)

Again, additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

VISUAL PROGRAMS

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

Because we have had zero requests for Visual Programs this year and very few for the past years, we are contemplating ideas for promoting either the use of the discs or the termination of the library. This is where you all come in. All suggestions are needed and welcome. If physical delivery is no longer feasible, another method may work but there may be copyright issues. Selling the programs has been suggested also. This means that I would be firing myself! Please give us some feedback. The subject will be put on the next Executive Meeting agenda and there may be some discussion at the business meeting in November.

You can contact me by call or text at 702-499-0272. Email is Sharonrr@cox.net; however provider issues sometimes prevent delivery. Let's solve the program problems together.

EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

Camp Paradise is in the rear view mirror for 2024. We had a wonderful, fun filled two weeks of learning, shenanigans, and good food. During Orientation I called out the person who left an ugly rock (won at the auction) and returned it stating I do not have ugly rocks in my studio. I blamed Patty Nichols but in reality it was Terrie Silva! Some wag decorated it and put it again on the auction table writing, "Jill's Ugly Rock" upon it and decorating it with an Ming tree. Our caterer, Pepe, won it in the auction. (When he took it home and put it on the mantle his wife said,"Really?") I asked him if he would donate it again next year he said he would. The winner in 2025 can keep it for one year then it goes on the auction block again. We are always looking for new and fun ways to raise money for CFMS even if it means an ugly rock stays in your house for one year!

Speaking of rocks...I recommend that those societies that have the capability to provide at least one (1) 9X13 plastic tub filled with slabs to do so. We would like slabs of varying degrees of MOHS scale hardness to train students how to work the stones when making a cabochon. Please do not provide boring stones which have no character in nature and that even society people would not work themselves.

Registration opens March 15, 2025. Thanks to Diane Cook and Pat LaRue we will be going electronic. Online registration and payment should make things easier for everyone. We also have a new registrar. Ann Marie McCann of the Reno club has stepped up to the plate to handle this tough job. Thank you Ann Marie. And thank you Glenda Keil for all your hard work these last few years to help keep Camp Paradise going. We couldn't have done it without you!



JOIN THE GOLDEN BEAR AWARD COMMITTEE!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair

The CFMS Golden Bear Committee considers nominees for a very special award: the Golden Bear Award for outstanding service to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Nominations may come from the CFMS Executive Committee, Federation Directors of member societies, and/or a CFMS Committee Chair. The Golden Bear Award Committee is composed of five members: the current CFMS President, the immediate Past President, and three other members, one to be appointed in rotation for a three-year term by each CFMS President.

It's been my privilege to serve on the committee these past couple of years and to chair the committee this year, when we inducted Bob Rush as our newest CFMS Golden Bear. This coming year, per the Operating Regulations, I'll be rotating off the committee as Susan Chaisson-Walblom and Sharon Rogow move up to the number one and two spots. That means we need a new volunteer for the third spot. Might that be you?

New committee members are to be appointed by the incoming CFMS President, so if you are interested, let the members of our Executive Committee know so that your name can be added to the committee roster for 2025 at our upcoming Directors Meeting in Visalia. See you there!



A GOOD PHOTO IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS!

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

And an invitation for another PR Zoom. Over the years, many words of wisdom have been written by past AFMS Public Relations Chairs offering thoughts, suggestions, and direction for clubs in pursuing their own PR and publicity efforts, but those words are more-or-less buried in the newsletter archive. This past

summer, I've done a deep dive into AFMS newsletters going back to 1994, and I'm now in the midst of rekeying selected articles and compiling a little edited booklet in order to capture, thematically organize, and share best practices to help our past inform our present. Once it's finished, I'll post it to the AFMS website to be freely available to all local societies.

As I've pursued this project, one thing has come up in several of the old columns; namely, a PR or Publicity Chair for your club should also be a photographer. In this day-and-age, I would also add, a videographer. It's long been said a picture is worth a thousand words. Even Napoleon reportedly observed, "un bon croquis vaut mieux qu'un long discours"—a good sketch is worth more than a long speech.

That was true in the age of the quill pen and is especially true in our age of social media when we've returned to the days of scrolling and hieroglyphics. What's the best way to get folks to pause when scrolling through their various social media feeds or pawing through an old-fashioned newspaper? An arresting image of a real person having real fun that invites the viewer in, whether you're publicizing a show, a special event, an exhibit or your club, in general. As Fran Sick reported back in 2008: "When using photos, choose carefully. Make sure your photos are very clear, accurately labeled and not too busy. A clear close-up photo of one spectacular mineral with its collector or one beautiful piece of jewelry with the person who made it and maybe their lapidary instructor is more attention grabbing than a cluttered photo taken from afar with too many people or too much going on."

So that little blast-from-the-past is my tip-of-the-month. Now for something completely different. Last year, I hosted a Zoom meeting on the topic of practicing public relations in the age of social media. It sparked a lot of interest but not that many participants when it came time to tune in. Still, the conversation was worthwhile, and I'd like to try again, this time with the more general topic of "Sharing best practices in Public Relations." Before I confirm going forward and booking a date and time, I wanted to put this out there to see how many folks might like to participate. If that's you, kindly email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, September 2024

2024 CFMS SHOW DATES

Shows and Events

Sponsored by

CFMS Clubs & Societies!

Please submit your

*Show or Event as soon as possible
to receive maximum advertising value!*

Email to:

SHOW DATES

Use the Online Show Form

at www.cfmsinc.org

(click on Shows)

*You should receive a confirmation
within 5 days after submitting your
Show Date information!*

**CLUB/SOCIETY SHOWS
ARE LISTED HERE**

2024

September 28-29, 2024 – San Luis Obispo, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave.,
San Luis Obispo, CA
Hours 10-5 daily
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/>

October 5-6, 2024 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 Mccourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net
Website: <http://ncgms.org>

October 5-6, 2024 – Anderson, CA
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs St.,
Anderson CA
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact (530) 722-7133, email:
kelly13@shasta.com
Website: <http://www.shastagemandmineral.org>

October 12-13, 2024 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem and Geology Society and Sequoia
Gem and Mineral Society
Redwood City Community Activities Building,
1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061
Hours: 10-5 daily
Contact: cci@pacbell.net
Website:
<https://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

October 12-13, 2024 – Long Beach, CA
Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill St.
Signal Hill, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (562) 253-1390
lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 13, 2024 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook GMS and Museum
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: 9-4
Contact: (760) 728-1130
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

October 19, 2024 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700
Sherman Way, Woodland Hills, CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 19-20, 2024 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (707) 849-9551,
coons@sonic.net
Website: <http://SRMGS.org>

October 26, 2024 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: berylman50@aol.com

October 26, 2024 – Laguna Hills, CA
South Orange County GMS
Laguna Hills Community Center
25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA
Hours: Sat 10-2
Contact: edupuy@me.com
Website: <http://socgems.com>

October 26-27, 2024 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street,
Sacramento, CA
Hours: sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 662-5819,
gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

October 26-27, 2024 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center
300 Flower St., Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959,
info@opalsociety.org
Website: <http://opalsociety.org>

November 2-3, 2024 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd,
Concord, CA
Hours: sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com/show>

November 2-3, 2024 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center
2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: Benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2024>

November 2-3, 2024 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Indian Wells Valley 68th Annual Gem and
Mineral Show
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA
Hours: 9-5 both days
Contact (760) 382-2967,
miglogonzal@hotmail.com

2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA
Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246
Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://tulegem.com>

April 12-13, 2025 - Mariposa CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

**National/Regional
Shows:**

***Rocky Mountain Federation
October 25-27, 2024
Oklahoma City, OK***

***South Central Federation
November 23-24, 2024
Mesquite, TX***

*Eastern Federation/AFMS
Mar 27-30, 2025
Hickory, NC*

*Midwest Federation
April 5-6, 2025
Lincoln, NE*

*Northwest Federation
Sept 12-14, 2025
Walla Walla, WA*

*CFMS
TBD*

**DON'T FORGET TO UP-DATE YOUR
CLUB WEBSITE WITH YOUR NEW
SHOW DATE**

**Check for show links at
www.cfmsinc.org/shows**

REMINDER

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

- **Local newspapers**
- **Current events sections!**
- **Local TV stations,**
- **Community calendars!**
- **Other Local Shows**

Advertise your shows in the *Rock & Gem Magazine!*

**[www.rockngem.com/
showdate-submissions/](http://www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/)**

Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online.

ROCKHOUND HOSPITALITY NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

I came across an interesting segment in a 1961 *Rocks and Minerals Magazine* titled, "Visiting Rockhounds Welcome". Apparently, any subscriber to the magazine could submit their name and address in the monthly publication for free, if they were interested in having traveling rockhounds come for a visit as they were passing through the area. In that issue, there were seventy-one rockhounds from all across the United States who were interested in saying hello. In the early days of our clubs, rockhounds traveled a lot, eager to visit other collecting areas they read about in the magazines and in the AFMS Federation newsletters. It was quite common for them to stop and visit with other rock and mineral clubs. They would arrive as guests at the club meetings to a hearty welcome. If the timing was right, they could enjoy a good field trip with the club or be given the directions to the best spots to explore.

Hospitality never goes out of style, and I would say it has always been a rockhound virtue that has always been a part of who we are for generations. It is something others always notice about us.

Club meetings can get busy each month with business to cover, programs and silent auctions to enjoy, and there's always the clean-up time after refreshments. With all the busyness, a warm welcome to club guests makes a huge, lasting impression. Try and take the time to personally introduce guests to some of your officers or chairmen. Introducing them to some of your long-time members or to those who are wearing what they've made with the rocks they found, is a really nice thing to do. All of these gestures will help people get to know each other better and help everyone feel right at home.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Sept 2024



SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Safety is not just a list of incidents, reports to write, mathematical statistics, or numbers. Safety is not just a list of skill sets we encourage people to learn. While there are many skill sets in our shared hobby, such as first aid attention, show safety, field trip care, lapidary shop guidelines, safety with driving to our many activities, as well as a myriad of associated safety concerns, one big concern is rarely mentioned, that of our overall health and well-being. Where would we be in our hobby without our overall health and well-being? A growing body of evidence indicates that just by participating in our hobby we generally experience various combinations of the following:

- Lower levels of stress
- Increased amounts of healthy physical activity
- Improved memory
- Motor skill and eye/hand coordination improvements
- Improvements to our emotional health

All that sounds like a pretty good return just for participating in our hobby.

Other healthful aspects of our hobby include meetings, field trips, picnics, swaps and shows. Why are such activities healthy? Glad you asked. Our in-person activities are vital to the social needs of our being human. We may broaden our horizons and improve our knowledge and understanding of our hobby with great programs, and we may fill our bellies with fine feasts at a great club picnic, but we very much improve our health and well-being when we participate with the social aspects of in-person activity, with our friendships in the hobby.

Far be it for this report to merely be a plea to increase the number of members attending a meeting. It is a plea however, for those who are able, to attend meetings, picnics, shows, and field trips in order that they may benefit from the most human things of sharing smiles, handshakes, warm greetings, and hugs. In the process of that in-person time one experiences the benefit of released feel-good endorphins in the brain, lower cortisol levels (stress associated chemistry), lower blood pressure, and a healthier cardio/vascular system. Studies indicate our enjoyable hobby time helps with our cognitive abilities, improves our memory, keeps us exercised (with improvement to bone density), and likely improves the quality and longevity of our lives. And, on top of all that, it is likely we also experience better sleep, less depression, lower stress levels, less

loneliness (another serious and under-appreciated issue), increased problem solving skills, greater feelings of well-being, and have better opportunities to tell bad jokes. What is not to like about all that?

Attending meetings can be good for one's health. On the flip side, there are those who say that virtual attendance (such as via Zoom) at club events will be the future of the hobby. Understandably, there are times and places where Zoom meetings are advantageous, although Zoom will not replace a hug, or improve one's bone density. In-person club activity is no health cure all, but the evidence of in-person health aspects are clear. Hope you can attend an in-person club event soon, for your health safety, because your health safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Sept 2024

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC

What the Heck is White Space? Have you ever been to a rock show and visited a dealer who had so MUCH stuff that you just couldn't see it all? It would be easier to see what he had for sale if there was a little more space around the items.

Bulletins are the same way. To make your bulletin easier to read, and to entice your readers to sit down for the good read you know you've given them, leave some "white space" around your articles. This means you can break up the type with clipart or graphics or titles in a larger size font or simply leave more "empty" space around your articles. It sure makes it easier on the eyes!

One other thing that improves the readability of your bulletin is the size of the type. 12-point type is the minimum, especially for eyes that now require reading glasses!

From *RMF News*, Mar 2006, via *AFMS Newsletter* Sept 2024



2024 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

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| Financial Adv Comm: | Heidi Hall | See First VP | |
| | Marcia Goetz | See President | |
| | Fred Ott (Susan) | | |
| Golden Bear: | Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair | See CFMS Rep to AFMS | |
| | Susan Chaisson-Walblom | See Show Consultant South | |
| | Sharon Rogow | See Endowment Fund–CFMS | |
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| | Sandie Fender (Tony) | Past Presidents Cases | |
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| Website Contest: | Merryan O’Neill | (510) 622-4229 | logtown49 at gmail.com |
| Ad Hoc Cloud Committee: | Marcia Goetz, Chair | See President | |
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CFMS NEWSLETTER

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Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

**Hosting the next CFMS show?
This space is for you!!
Who will step up to the plate?**