



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #7

August 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

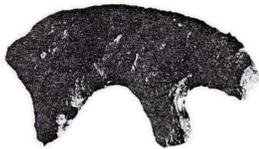
Summer is in full swing, and it is getting hot out there! Please take extra care if you go out "Rockhounding" in the hotter months. Great News, the

extra CFMS Earth Science Trailer Sold! Thank you to everyone who helped with that endeavor.

Camp Paradise is still accepting student applications for the second week of classes. If you have never attended one of the CFMS Earth Science Camps, here is your chance. You can go to the CFMS website for more information and to sign up.

We are still looking for a Club/Society to host the 2026 CFMS Show & Convention. If you are interested or have questions, please contact myself or Diane Cook (our contact info is available here in the Newsletter or on the CFMS website). Hosting the Annual CFMS Show & Convention is a Great way to show off your Club/Society. It will help to build your membership and bring awareness to your Community about Rockhounds!

Did you know that California has an official prehistoric artifact?



"The Chipped Stone Bear"

Picture from: History and Culture: California State Library

California designated the chipped stone bear as the official state prehistoric artifact in 1991 (actual size about 2.5 by 1.5 inches). Discovered in 1985 at an archaeological dig site in San Diego County, this small stone resembles a walking bear. The bear was created about 7- 8,000 years ago out of volcanic rock by one of California's first human inhabitants. California is the first

state to designate a prehistoric artifact as an official state symbol.

Do you have you have any exciting "Rockhounding" stories you would like to share? If you have a fun Summer Fieldtrip or activity you would like to share, please send in your story to Pat LaRue for the next CFMS Newsletter.

Happy Rockhounding!

Susan Chaisson-Walblom

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 5. Deadline for Sept Newsletter
Aug 17-Aug30. Camp Paradise
Sept Diadline for Oct
Nov 7-9. Fall Business Meeting–Visalia

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

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

Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair
(530) 677-8440
fred.ott@att.net

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 if you wish to receive a hard copy. Newsletters are currently emailed. 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.

**INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUTURE
CFMS SHOW?**

By Diane Cook, 1st VP

If your club is interested in hosting a future CFMS Show and Convention, we’d love to hear from you! The Federation is eager to work more closely with our member clubs, rebuild connections, and support you every step of the way.

Hosting a show is a rewarding opportunity to showcase your community, share your club’s passion, and help shape the future of CFMS.

Let’s come together to make our shows stronger than ever — reach out if you’re ready to explore the possibilities!

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

By Pat LaRue, Exec Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting and election of 2026 Officers will be held November 7-9, 2025 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 \$105+tax per night, tell them you are with CFMS. Cut-off date for this price is **October 27, 2025**. The group code is 110725CFM. 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 8 at 9 a.m.** Join us at the **Banquet** that Saturday evening. The incoming president will have a brief meeting of the 2026 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 option 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, 2025.

Mail your check **payable to CFMS** to:

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Taking Stock

When Did You Last Check Out the AFMS Youth Program?

Summertime! Families often are off on vacation trips or otherwise occupied with the serious job of kicking back and taking it easy. Thus, there's usually a lull with kids' activities in gem and mineral societies. That makes summertime the perfect time to take stock with a youth program, whether you already have one or have considered initiating one but haven't taken the leap.

This summer, I encourage all clubs to visit or revisit the Youth Programs section of the AFMS website: <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/>. You already may be familiar with the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program that's laid out there, but did you know a new badge has been added? "Sand & Sediment" is primed and ready to be used.



There's also "Crack the News," an AFMS-sponsored newsletter for-kids/by-kids. They welcome submission of articles, field trip reports, poems, cartoons, photos, and more. Kids who send material earn a badge and may also end up eligible for awards during the annual AFMS bulletin contest. They can send brand new articles or articles they may have already published in their club newsletter. Help nurture the cub reporters in your club!

There's also a Junior Volunteer Award for kids ages 10 to 17 who independently volunteer to help with club activities and who log 20 hours of such work, be it helping at the club show, helping with set-up and tear-down at club events (shows, picnics, tailgates, holiday parties), assisting during meetings, mentoring younger club kids, etc. It helps foster a sense of community, independence, and responsibility.

Then there's the Patricia Egoff "Rock Pals" rock exchange program. Club kids can work together to gather and mail a box of rocks from their home region in exchange for a box from kids in other clubs all across the U.S. to bolster their collections and forge connections.

Don't have a youth program in your club? There's a whole section of the website all about "Starting a Youth Program" and another section on "Promoting Your Youth Program" to provide advice and ideas on attracting kids to your club. Another section suggests how to forge partnerships with other local youth programs (4H, Scouts, home-school groups) that might attract kids to your program.

Don't feel you have enough kids in your club? All the above can be done even if you have but a single child. You don't need a formal group and formal monthly kids' meetings. For the badges, you don't even need a lot of knowledge about rocks, fossils, lapidary, etc. The online Badge Manual includes back-up pages providing everything you need to know, and the badges can be earned in a sort of home-schooled way with parents helping their kids.

So don't hold back! Take advantage of the summertime lull to take stock, recharge, and consider how you and your local society might attract, encourage, and foster youth.

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Public Relations

Looking to add a special element to your next club show? CFMS has cases displaying cabochons that have been crafted and donated by all affiliated clubs over the years. These attractive cases are available for loan to be displayed at local club shows. Three committee members house these cases: Cab Cases-North, Cab Cases-Central, and Cab Cases-South. So wherever you are across California, a cab case is readily available near you. Check the directory at the end of this newsletter and make arrangements for a case to be on display at your next club show!



FIELD TRIP TO TOPAZ MT. & DUGWAY GEODE BEDS

By Jim Barton, CFMS Field Trips North

"CO-OP MEMBER" and open to all CFMS societies members in good standing. Sponsored by Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rock hounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- CO-OP website has information: www.co-opfieldtrips.com.
- CFMS members area for field trips <https://cfmsinc.org/cfms-field-trips-3/>
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- The use of intoxicating substances during the effective hours of this field trip is expressly prohibited.

TRIP LOCATION: Topaz Mt. and Dugway Geode Beds, North West of Delta, Utah.

Vehicle access & parking: # 3 at Topaz Mt. & Dugway geode beds. - Good for most vehicles and RV's, no specific handicap parking at Topaz Mt. and Dugway geode beds.

Collection or View Site: From a # 3 at the base of the Mt. to a # 7 at the Red Beryl site, ½ mile or more to site, difficult trails and ravines or water crossings. A # 4 at Dugway geode beds, flat ground, unpaved sections, handicap access with some help.

WHEN: September 25th through September 28th. This is a repeating site tour; you may show up and leave at any time during these 4 days. See schedule for optimum arrival dates.

MEMBER'S GUESTS: This is a public collecting area and anybody may camp and collect at the area concurrent with our activities. Those who choose to make the escorted trip to the Red Beryl site and convoy with us to the Dugway Geode Beds must sign the waiver.

COLLECTION MATERIAL: Topaz Crystals, Bixbyite (Red Beryl), Pseudobrookite crystals, Hematite crystals, and Geodes.

LEADER & CONTACT INFO: **Please contact ahead of time:** Gene Doyle, CO-OP & Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip Leader, Text or leave message, Cell (408) 605-9457, Email eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net, Jim Barton, CFMS-N, Home 916-773-0458, Cell (916) 847-7321,

Email geologist1@surewest.net. If you are interested in this field trip Gene Doyle will email you a more detailed write up upon request.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: We will be meeting at 0900 hours on Thursday September 25th at the Topaz Mountain camp site and drive to Dugway Geode Beds (about an 45 minutes) for the dig. Friday and Saturday will be Topaz Mountain, with Thursday and Sunday at Dugway Geodes.

MEET: Gene Doyle will have a dark blue Toyota 4Runner camped at a suitable location near the entrance to the “cove” of Topaz Mt each morning before 9am on September 25th through September 28th. Look for the RRR signs at the turn off Hwy 174 and the “Roseville Rock Rollers” sign on the side of the 4Runner at the meeting area.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP: General directions are: Catch Highway 50 East from Sacramento to Fallon, Nevada then to Ely, NV. Follow 50/6 East from Ely to Delta, UT. Turn north on 6 just East of Delta, UT, left on Brush Highway (Hwy 174), follow signs to the Intermountain Powerhouse, a coal fired power plant seen on the horizon. Continue on the road past the powerhouse; you will be on a good paved road for approximately 40 minutes to the sign posted to Topaz Mt. Collection Area, a BLM controlled area. I will stake the dirt roads into the site with “RRR” signs. Those staying in Delta may wish to meet and convoy together to “the cove”.

VEHICLE REQ'S: A high clearance or 4x4 vehicle at the red beryl site. It is recommended to have a high clearance vehicle at the Dugway site. A 2 wheel drive vehicles should make it to the camp site without a problem

CAMP/FACILITIES: This camp site is primitive. No services of any kind. If you are going to camp, you will need to be fully self contained and equipped.

TOOLS: Wide and narrow cold chisels, along with a 3 or 4 pound hand sledge are necessary. A standard rock pick and narrow screwdriver and a coat hanger or a stiff wire with a hook bent on the end. A heavy full size sledge hammers and pry bars. A 1/4 inch and 1/8 inch screen (stackable classifiers). A standard shovel and garden rake or hand rake, and rock pick. A roll of toilet paper and disposable plastic containers to put specimens in.

SAFETY CONCERNS: There are scorpions, snakes, and other common desert animals in the area. Careful, rubble and boulders are everywhere so you must be very aware of those climbing or working up hill and below you. Be prepared at any moment to heed their warnings regarding falling rock or rubble. In turn, you must be very aware of those below you and not cause wasting or rock

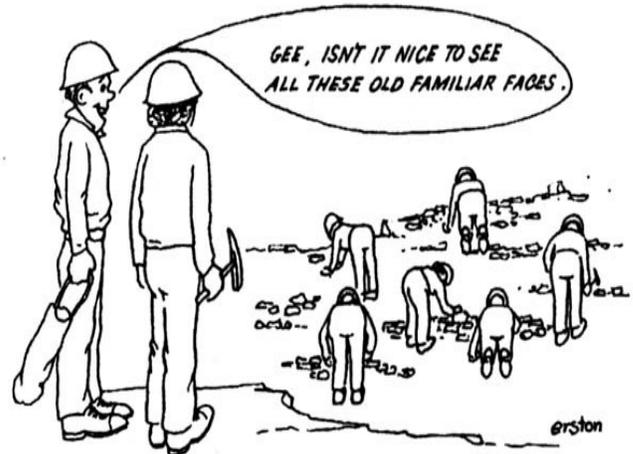
slides. Due to the potential for danger, we will not be escorting young people under 18 years of age into the Red Beryl area. Rhyolite dust is primarily silica dust and it would be wise to bring a dust mask if screening material.

CLIMATE/WEATHER: The weather at Topaz Mt. is rarely perfect! The average high at the end of September is 82 degrees, with an average low of 58.

CLOTHING: Weather forecasts will dictate the necessary clothing. Full pants, closed shoes, gloves, and hat are strongly recommended.

NOTE: This is not the full field trip write-up. Please contact the Field Trip Leader, Gene Doyle, for the full write-up if you're not scared by now about all those scorpions and stuff and you really want to go on this field trip!

A FIELD TRIP IS A SOCIAL OCCASION



—Cartoon by Erston Barnhart in *Are We Having Fun Yet? An Irreverent but Affectionate Look at Rockhounds*

via Golden Spike News 11/01

The following guidance for the CFMS FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE is taken from the CFMS Officer's and Chairmen's Manual, revised 2019. Chairs are appointed by the current CFMS President. Please note that CFMS is not sponsoring field trips, but does provide assistance to the local societies.

Jim Barton CFMS Field Trips North

There is a Field Trip Chair-North and a Field Trip Chair-South who are to serve as liaisons between the CFMS and Field Trip Chairs of member societies, assist society Field Trip Chairs in preparing field trips for their societies, set up Field Trip seminars in the various areas of the CFMS, and act as a clearing house for field trip information.

General Responsibilities

1. Answer questions from society Field Trip Chairs and work with them to sponsor field trip opportunities throughout the year.
2. Compile and keep a Field Trip Manual up-to-date with locations, maps, restrictions, etc.
3. Work with the Safety Chair to provide information relevant to field trips for the Safety Manual.
4. Check manuals from other federations for ideas.
5. Use the CFMS Newsletter and/or CFMS email list and website to announce trips, offer suggestions, and help to society Field Trip Chairs. Write a brief article each month, if possible, or as often as you can.

Field Trip Seminars or Conferences

- a Solicit a host society through the Newsletter or in person.
- b Clear dates with First Vice President before making definite plans.
- c Work with host society to provide:

- Camp area for approximately 100, with sanitary facilities.
- Speakers on safety, BLM regulations, forestry regulations, geology and mineralogy of the area, and other topics of interest to Field Trip Chairs.
- fee, if necessary, to cover costs.
- Eating arrangements (i.e., pancake breakfast, potluck dinner).

d Publicize the event in the CFMS Newsletter.

e Items to consider:

- Plan the program. This can include: how to lead a field trip, how to register, how to contact and secure permission for field trips, all facets of liability, safety on the way and in the field, conduct of the field trip chair at the trip site, handling of a group for mass entertainment in the evening

with a campfire, etc., experiences of field trip chairs, signs, how to get attendance, question and answers.

1. Map exchange. This could be a part of the program with time for discussion.
2. Make sure everyone has a good time!
6. When the seminar is over, evaluate activities of the conference and make recommendations for future conferences.

Procedure Book for Seminars & Conferences

Maintain a Procedure Book with

1. Possible speakers and topics.
2. Possible areas for holding conferences.
3. Records of past Field Trip conferences.
4. Recommendations for future conferences.

Editor's Note:

A volunteer Field Trip South Chairperson is needed. If interested and the guidelines Jim asked me to publish don't scare you off, contact Susan Chaisson-Walblom and say "Sign me up!"



SEEKING YOUR PR SUCCESS STORIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair

Last month, I noted the importance of taking time to get noticed within your community by actively publicizing what you club offers, and I noted how my own club was rather lax in that regard, so I took it on myself to generate a press release about our 2025 college scholarship honorees. I'm happy to report that in the time since my last column, an article has appeared in our local biweekly paper, the *Ventura Breeze*. See the accompanying photo!

This month, I invite **your** success stories. What has your club been doing to inform your fellow community members of a) your existence, and b) the benefits you deliver to the community, be it informative programs at monthly meetings, educational outreach, activities for summer camps, scholarships, a library's summer reading program, volunteer work at a local museum or nature center, helping Scouts earn badges, etc. Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com so I can share your public relations success story and provide an example that might help our fellow clubs as they strive to make themselves visible and valued members and partners within their broader community. Here's thanking you in advance!

6 April 16 to April 29, 2025
Ventura BREEZE

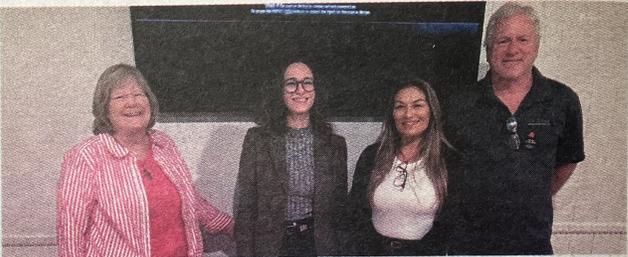
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Awards its 2025 College Scholarships

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) is pleased to announce its 2025 Scholarship Honorees: Emily Felder and Maria Tharpe.

Emily is a graduate student in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She works in the lab of Dr. Susannah Porter to research 800-million-year-old microfossils found in a remote section of the Alaska-Yukon border and how they incorporated

unique minerals into the fabric of life as complex creatures first emerged in Earth's oceans. Described as a non-traditional student, Emily left a career as a documentary filmmaker and science writer to pursue a long-time dream of becoming a paleontologist.

Maria is a lab assistant in the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her goal is to obtain a geology degree with a minor



Nancy Brace-Thompson (VGMS Scholarship Committee Chair), scholarship recipients Emily Felder (UCSB) and Maria Tharpe (UCLA), and David Springer (VGMS President). *Image courtesy Jim Brace-Thompson*

in environmental science. Within the lab, she assists in working with 10,000-year-old microfossils known as foraminifera to help unravel the evolving nature of Earth's oceans. An older adult learner and single mom, her academic path was long deferred and unconventional, with many challenges that she's successfully navigated along the way.

Emily and Maria were honored based on their academic records, essays describing their educational goals, and faculty letters-of-recommendation. Each received a \$1,000 unrestricted grant, a certificate-of-acknowledgement, and honorary VGMS membership.

VGMS normally awards one scholarship on an annual basis, but this year

was able to award two people thanks to the fiscal success of last year's National Show & Convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosted by VGMS at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The scholarship grants may be used as it best meets the recipient's needs, whether for tuition, books, housing, etc. Potential recipients may be a graduating high school senior accepted to a college program, a 2- or 4-year college student, or a graduate student. Applicants must major in one of the earth sciences or in another field directly relevant to the mission of VGMS (e.g., science education, gemology and jewelry arts, etc.). If interested in further details, contact VGMS at info@vgms.org. www.vgms.org.

Join us for the 4th Annual Food, Wine, and Beer Festival at Camp Arroyo!



POD SAVE THE

POD Save the Summer Podcasting Workshop is June 15. To sign up go

ONE LINERS AND LAUGHS FOR ROCKHOUND JOY

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

There is always at least one person, if not more in each club, who are admired for their wit or just bringing a smile to your face whenever you are around them. During your monthly meetings, play time on field trips, working on your shows and in the lapidary shop, someone seems to have the spontaneous gift for creating wonderful smiles.

One of the earlier Rocks and Minerals magazines from nearly sixty years ago, had a section in some of their issues each year for wit. When I read these, I thought what a fun idea for clubs to pay attention to, and add to their newsletters and send in for their federation newsletters as well. Your juniors can be very clever, so I am sure you can gather some witty statements from them too. Some of your officers and chairmen may have some words of wisdom that have stuck with you, and those could be used also.

Here are some examples from the magazine. The title of this particular section for this issue was, “How I Became a Rockhound.”

- “I started picking up rocks on trips, then got stopping at rock shops, then built a tumbler, bought a secondhand rock saw, and here I am—rocks running out my ear.”
- “Rocks have always interested me, but due to the Tulsa rock show I really went overboard. I never have had a dull minute since!”
- “I started out looking for uranium—and here I am.”
- “My mother made me do it.”

If you inspire your club members to get their minds behind this, I think you’ll find quite a few more smiles enjoying wit and humor. Enjoy your club and your federations.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, June 2025

SAFETY — A HAIR-RAISING ORDEAL

By Erin Irwin, Lubbock GMS, SCFMS Juniors Chair

We’ve all seen the safety rules posted around the club shops. Most of us tend to overlook them—until someone speaks up. That’s usually when we roll up our sleeves, tie back our hair, and maybe dig around for a pair of safety glasses. At home, though, I know many of us let our guard down even more. I’m definitely guilty of that.

A few weeks ago, we were using a bench grinder and a Dremel at home. No one was wearing safety glasses, and no one had their hair pulled back. One thing people rarely talk about is the importance of posture and body positioning when working with machinery. It can make all the difference.

My 15-year-old son, who’s been taught proper safety protocols and has used many machines without issue, had a scary experience that day. In a split second, his hair got caught in the spinning mechanism. He shouted, and while I rushed to unplug the machine, he managed to shut it off himself. Thankfully, the only thing he lost was a lot of hair—not his scalp. Still, for a teenage boy, losing that much hair was a big deal. He was angry and swore he’d never touch the machines again.

I hope with time he’ll reconsider and get back to making cabs—something he’s genuinely talented at. But one thing is for sure: we won’t be taking safety for granted again.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, June 2025



CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, 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. Please know, you do not need to wait until the end of the year to make your submissions. Avoid the end of the year rush and send them to me now. It's 100% free and a great way to acknowledge that special individual, couple and junior in your club. I hope to hear from more of you soon.!

Isaac Harback - Junior Member - Roseville Rock Rollers I would like to nominate Isaac Harback as Junior Rockhound of the Year. He has been a member of the Roseville Rock Rollers Junior Program since January 2021. He has had almost perfect attendance for the last 4 years. Both on his own and with the club he has earned 10 badges. Isaac comes early and stays late to help set up and clean up for the Junior meetings. He has also worked multiple shifts at our yearly August Gem and Rock show each year. This year he helped at the Sierra College Dino Days. Our club also has special Saturday Junior Meetings a few times a year and Isaac has helped to plan and teach some of the activities. Now that he is 13 he is also a role model and a mentor for our younger Junior members.

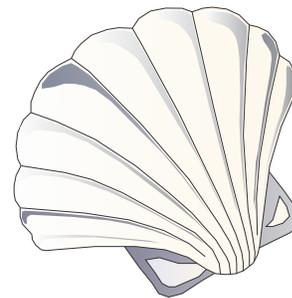
Submitted by: Patty Holbrook, Jr. Advisor, Roseville Rock Rollers

Donovan Hamanaka Jr - Junior Member - Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society. Nine year old Donovan Hamanaka Jr. has been very active since he became a member of the Calaveras Junior Gem Hounds last year. His love for rocks was evident from the day he joined the club, telling how he always picks up every rock he can find. He has a contagious enthusiasm and brings joy and excitement to every meeting he attends. He volunteered many hours in preparation for our annual show. He helped with setup, take down, and worked several booths in our Kids Corner both days of the show. He helped organize the other juniors to take turns at different booths, and made sure booths were covered when people took breaks. He is responsible, inquisitive, hard working and a positive example to our membership. We appreciate all the effort Donovan puts into everything he does, and we recognize his dedication to the club by awarding him "Junior Rockhound of the Year - 2025!"

Submitted by: Shelley Breidenstein, VP, Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Steve & Debbie Erbeck- Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society. Steve and Debbie attended the 2024 Calaveras Gem and Mineral Show. They liked what they saw and experienced. They wanted to become a part of a club of like-minded people. After joining they got busy participating in all aspects of club life, serving in the kitchen during club meetings, rock hounding and helping wherever help was needed. They show up and work whenever there is a workday. They wanted to learn what to do with the rocks they had collected and an entire world opened to them experiencing the lapidary arts & taking part in a variety of classes. At the 2025 annual show, Steve and Debbie accepted the challenge of overseeing the Prize Drawing area. They took on this big vital component of the show as new members and met the challenge. Steve and Debbie lived in Southern California, Hemet and Murrieta. They worked at their careers and after retirement wanted to live in the mountains. They moved north, where there is water in the streams and lakes and enjoyable seasonal changes. Steve's career as a heavy equipment operator was moving lots of dirt. At one site, he was able to sift through the piles of dirt and found fossils, especially shark's teeth. They make annual pilgrimages to Quartzsite, collecting rocks and enjoying the quartzsite experience. Steve and Debbie enjoy being outside, they are out-doorsy, camping, biking, gardening and all things outdoor. Cooking is also an activity that they enjoy doing together. Steve is a veteran, having served in the Army stationed in South Korea and San Francisco. It is an honor to present this award to Steve and Debbie Erbeck for the spirit they bring to the club.

Submitted by: Debby Brooks, Federation Director
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society



2025 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**

2025

August 1-3, 2025 – Nipomo, CA
Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School., 525 N. Thompson Ave.,
Nipomo CA 93444
Hours: Fri/Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com, (805)
929-2783
Website: www.oms-inc.org

August 2-3, 2025 – Roseville, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society
Roebbelen Event Center @the Grounds, 700
Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5m, Sunday 10-4
Contact: (916) 216-1114,
gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/pages/gem-mineral-show>

August 16-17, 2025, Tehachapi, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" St.,
Tehachapi, CA
Hours 9-5 both days
Contact: (661) 972-1117,
tehachapiVGMS@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgms.org>

September 13-14, 2025 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Silver State Pavillion at the Grand Sierra
Resort, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (925) 785-4551,
sabl@comcast.net
Website: <http://renogms.org>

September 20-21, 2025 – Pasadena, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte
Rd., Arcadia, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239
Website: pasadenalapidary.org

September 20-21, 2025 – Monterey, CA
Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Monterey
Road, Monterey, CA
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-5
Contact:
johnandjamiesmama@yahoo.com, (831)
679-2896
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

September 20-21, 2025 – Chico, CA
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St.,
Chico, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org
Vendors contact:
frlmsrocks2025@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.featherriverrocks.org>

September 27-28, 2025 – San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial
Building, 802 Grand Ave., San Luis
Obispo
Hours: Sat-Sun 10-5
Contact: 2025 show@slogem.org
Website: slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/

October 4-5, 2025 – Anderson
Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta District Fair and Event Center,
1890 Biggs St., Anderson, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (530) 356-2378,
miller3987@gmail.com
Website: <http://shastagemandmineral.org>

October 11-12, 2025 – Redwood City
Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
Redwood City Community Activities
Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood
City, CA
Hours: 10-5 both days
Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 11-12, 2025 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society
1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (562) 253-1390,
lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.lbmineralgem.org>

October 18-19, 2025 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower
St., Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959,
angeldragonofflight@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.opalsociety.org>

October 18, 2025 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700
Sherman Way, West Hills CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 18-19, 2025 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building,
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
Contact: (707) 583-1824
Website: www.srmgs.org

October 24-25, 2025 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H
Street, Sacramento, CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 682-5819,
gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <https://sacgemshow.com>

November 1-2, 2025 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600
Laning Road, San Diego, CA (in Point
Loma)
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: (858) 945-4762,
benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.sdmg.org>

National/Regional Shows:

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

*Rocky Mountain Federation
September 19-21, 2025
Grand Junction, CO*

*South Central Federation
October 17-19, 2025
Austin, TX*

*Southeast Federation
September 12-13, 2025
Norcross, GA*

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.

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, 2010 AFMS BEAC Chair

Abbreviations – Have I found a shortcut to a can of worms?

My husband recently asked me a question about an abbreviation he wanted to use in an article he was writing. I thought, "Gee, abbreviations would be a good topic to research and write about for 'Quick Tips.'" The best thing I can say is: decide on a reasonable style and stick with it.

There are a mountain of different styles to choose from--some for essays, some for technical writing, some for specific subject areas, some for casual writing. The can of worms I discovered is that none of these styles seem to agree on much of anything.

The most helpful information came from an online site for home schoolers. It gave these basic rules for abbreviation use:

- if you're unsure about using an abbreviation, spell it out every time you use it (for numbers, I'd stick with full spellings for any number under 10 and use numerals for anything with two or more digits)
- check the dictionary – it's always worth a try
- be consistent with the style you have chosen
- use an abbreviation instead of a contraction (as in "cont." instead of "cont'd." for continued)
- if the abbreviation is only a couple of letters shorter than the actual word you might as well use the whole word!
- within a reference, use periods with the abbreviations (Vol., 5th ed., p. 41)¹

The articles we write for our bulletins sometimes need units of measure. The numerical part is written with numerals, there is a space between the numeric part and the units, and there is no period after the abbreviation for the units, except when it is in. for inches (to distinguish from the preposition, "in"). Samples: 35 in., 18 g, 79 km²

Numbers that should always be written with numerals, not words are: dates, addresses, percentages, fractions and decimals, scores, exact amounts of money, and time of day.

There are some words that we should NOT abbreviate as we are writing: short forms of words (thru, nite – too casual), days of the week, months of the year, people's

names (use Charles, not Chas.), and states' names (use Oklahoma, not OK or Okla.).²

Then there are the acronyms. A true acronym is formed by taking the first letter of each word in a phrase and using those initials to form a word that can be pronounced. If the acronym forms a proper noun (NASA, NAFTA, AIDS) the letters are all capitalized, and there are no periods. If initials form a phrase (a.k.a., e.g., i.e.) they are written in small case letters and include the periods. It helps the reader to see the nouns or phrases spelled out the first time they are used, with acronyms each time they are mentioned afterwards.³

I repeat – be consistent!

Now, about that can of worms – fishing anyone?

References:

¹ Emms, Karrie. "How to Use Abbreviations: Five Basic Rules of Abbreviation Use for Homeschoolers." 26 May 2008. 24 February 2010

http://homeschool-curricula.suite101.com/article.cfm/when_and_how_to_use_abbreviations

² "Abbreviations." 24 February 2010 .

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/abbreviations.htm>

³ Roach, John. "What's up, shorty? – Acronyms and Abbreviation." 4 August 2008. 24 February 2010. <http://prowritingtips.com/2008/08/whats-up-shorty-acronyms-and-abbreviations/>

From *AFMS Newsletter*, May 2025

Some oldie but goodie membership blasts from the past

DEFINITION OF A MEMBER

Unknown author

- ▶A member is the most important person in an organization.
- ▶A member is not dependent on us—we are dependent on him/her.
- ▶A member is not an interruption of our work. He/she is the purpose of it.
- ▶A member is someone who is doing us a favor. We are not doing him/her a favor by just "serving" him/her.
- ▶A member is part of our club—not an outsider.
- ▶A member is not a cold statistic—he/she is a fresh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

- ▶A member is not someone to argue or match wits with.
- ▶A member is a person who brings us his/her wants—it is our job to fill those wants.
- ▶A member is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give him/her.
- ▶A member is the person that makes it possible to keep our club growing.
- ▶A member is the life blood of this and every other organization.

From *Hygrader*, Jan 1984 vis *Chips & Tips*, 10/93

AN IDEAL CLUB MEMBER'S

ALPHABET

By Myrtle Griffith

- A—ALWAYS attend meetings.
- B—BRING someone with you.
- C—COMMUNICATE
- D—DEVELOP mutual understanding and respect.
- F—FRIENDSHIP--cherish and nurture this valuable community.
- G—GENEROSITY, GOALS, GENTLENESS--use when needed.
- H—HONESTY--use it regularly.
- I—IDEAS—share with other members.
- J—JEALOUSY—avoid like the plague.
- K—KNOWLEDGE—help promote it.
- L—LABOR—donate when and where needed.
- M—MISTAKES—correct yours, overlook others.
- N—NONSENSE—use frequently—breaks monotony.
- O—ORDER—help maintain at all meetings.
- P—PATIENCE—develop as much as possible; rockhounds need a large amount.
- Q—QUARRELS—never indulge. They serve on good purpose.
- R—ROCKS—study, hunt, collect, work, polish or build with them.
- S—SHARE your talents, energy, knowledge with others.
- T—TALENT—use and improve as much as possible.
- U—UNITED—help the club stay that way.
- V—VALUE friends, members. yourself and the organization.
- W—WORK—an important ingredient; be willing to help carry the load.
- X—RATE all gossip, malice, petty peeves and negative attitudes.
- Y—YESTERDAY—leave it where it belongs—in the past.
- Z—ZEAL—be generous with it, encourage others to do likewise.

From *The Roadrunner*, 2/89 via *The Glacial Drifter*, 9/90

2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-7239	slchaisson at yahoo..com
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Treasurer:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at csurfers.net
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net
<hr/>			
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Cab Cases–Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See Treasurer	
Cab Cases–South	Bob Knox	(747) 206-8506	knoxrobert211 at gmail.com
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Facilities Fund:	OPEN		
Field Trips North:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips South:	OPEN		
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	Diane Cook (John)	See 1 st VP	
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	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
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	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet:	Nick Hughes	See Cab Cases North	
Insurance	Fred Ott	See Financial Adv Comm	
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
	All living past presidents		
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	Fred Ott (Susan)	See Financial Adv Comm	
Museum Comm:	Frank Van Hecke	See 2 nd VP	
Nominating Comm:	Dick White, Chair	See Membership	
	Nancy Bird Bob Knox	Celia Churchill	
	Sharon Rogow	Anna Robertson (alternate)	
Parliamentarian:	Tony Fender	See Bylaws	
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PLAC:	James May, Chair	(661) 912-3026	geojim9 at hotmail.com
	John Martin (Susy)	(611) 433-4216	john.martin at amlands.org
	Bernie Bentsen	(661) 496-7393	bentsenbab at gmail.com
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rules Committee:	Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair	See Jr. Activities	
	Colleen McGann	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Scholarship–AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Scholarship–CFMS	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
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Show Consultant–North:	OPEN		
Show Dates:	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Tax Advisor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Website Contest:	Merryan O'Neill	(530) 622-4229	logtown49 at gmail.com

CFMS NEWSLETTER

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