



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #8

September 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

I hope everyone is finding a way to stay cool during the summer. If you do venture out on Field Trips this time of year, please make sure you take extra precautions from the heat!

Our Nomination Committee is currently looking for volunteers to run for positions on the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. If you are interested in running for a position, or would like more information about the job descriptions contact our 2025 Nomination Chairman, Dick White (rich_phil@msn.com).

You will find information here in this Newsletter about the CFMS Fall Meeting held in Visalia on November 8th. If you have any questions about Visalia, please contact Pat LaRue (bplarue@earthlink.net).

If your Club/Society is interested in hosting a future CFMS Show & Convention, or would like more information, please contact me (slchaisson@yahoo.com).

This month for Educational, the California State Gem:
Benitoite (ben-EE-toe-ite)



A rare blue barium titanium silicate mineral, found in hydrothermally altered serpentinite. Benitoite fluoresces under short wave ultraviolet light, appearing bright blue to bluish white in color. The more rarely seen clear to white benitoite crystals fluoresce red under long-wave UV light. It was first described in 1907 by George D. Louderback,

who named it benitoite for its occurrence near the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California . Benitoite occurs in a number of sites, but gemstone quality material has only been found in California.

Susan Chaisson-Walblom



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 5. Deadline for Oct Newsletter
Oct 5-. Deadline for Nov Newsletter
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@mcd-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

With summer over and kids arriving home from vacations and getting down to serious business, here are two ways to occupy their extracurricular time and potentially win honors. We'll soon kick off our 6th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards. We look at kids' achievements across four areas: hobby related, educational achievement, community involvement, and work related. Winners in two age groups earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. Full details will appear in next month's newsletter and at the Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia.

"Crack the News" is 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 are 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! Full details, along with past issues of "Crack the News," are posted on the AFMS website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>.

Please share this info today with parents and kids within your society. Let's all help our outstanding kids earn recognition while having fun!



CRACK THE NEWS

A newsletter for youth by youth who love rocks, minerals, and fossils

Volume 3, Number 2 July 2025

WHAT DOES A TREE STUMP IN NEVADA, A HOLE IN THE GROUND IN SIBERIA, AND THE ROCKHOUND CODE OF ETHICS HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Addy Leavitt, age 11, Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Oregon

In 1964 Donald Rusk Currey, a college student cut down a tree in the Great Basin National Park in Nevada because he wanted to know how old the tree named Prometheus was. The Park Rangers gave him permission to cut it down. It was the oldest tree in the world, a bristlecone pine, about 5,000 years old.

Also, in the 1960's, loggers cut down trees in Siberia, Russia near the town of Batagay. They had permission, because they were supposed to find minerals, so they did it. What they didn't realize was that there was permafrost (ground that is frozen for at least 2 years) that would melt. Over the years it created a giant hole that today is so big that you can see it from space.



Prometheus stump. Credit: Jrbouldin, public domain

We learned from cutting down the tree that bristlecone pines should

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!



From pngtree.com/so/topaz

2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dick White, CFMS Nominating Committee Chair

The 2025 CFMS Nominating Committee has been searching for possible nominees for the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. The following are recommended as nominees for the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

Treasurer: Currently we are still searching for a nominee for this position. Nominations can be submitted by any Society and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November Directors Meeting in Visalia.

Secretary: Incumbent, Laura Driskell (2025 CFMS Secretary)

2nd Vice President: Bob Papac (2025 CFMS Treasurer)

1st Vice President: Frank Van Hecke (2025 CFMS 2nd Vice President)

President: Diane Cook (2025 1st Vice President/President-elect)

Again, additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow. Societies wishing to submit a potential nominee for any office must submit nominees name with their qualifications, experience and club affiliation. Member Societies may send names and qualifications of candidates any time prior to thirty (30) days before the Convention Meeting. The nominations must be approved by the Member Society and signed by a sitting elected officer.

Send nominations to Dick White CFMS Nominating Committee Chair. Email: rich_phil@msn.com



From stock.adobe.com

HELP WANTED--CAB CASES SOUTH

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom, CFMS President

CFMS is searching for a new Cab Cases South Chairman. Here is an outline of the job description. Please contact any one of the CFMS Executive Committee if you are interested in becoming a CFMS Cab Case South Chairman.

The Cab Case South Chairman will provide availability of the cabochon cases to the CFMS societies for display at their shows.

1. Keep a schedule of the societies requesting use of cases at their show.
2. Make arrangements for pick-up and return of cases.
3. Maintain cases so they are always an asset to any show.
4. Maintain a procedure book and pass it on to the incoming Chair when your term is over, This should include:
 - a. List of clubs who have displayed the cases their show.
 - b. Adequate supply of receipt forms for borrowing the cases.

Club Show Procedure

1. Upon receipt of request from a society, the Chair will inform society when and where cases may be picked up, or the Chair might bring the cases to the show, if convenient.
2. Inspect cases before they are picked up to see that everything is as it should be (i.e., all lights work, cases are clean, cabs are in place, etc.).
3. When cases are delivered to representative of society which is borrowing them, have receipt form filled out using appropriate number (No. 1 through No. 4) and keep in record file. If cases are passed on to another society before being returned to lender, be sure the receipt form indicates this. When cases are returned to lender (Cabochon Case Chair), Receipt form should be signed by lender and retained in record file.
4. Inspect cases on their return and make any necessary repairs.

Federation Show Procedure

1. If the Chair of the Federation Show has not contacted the Cabochon Case Chair to schedule the display of the cases at the show, the Cabochon Chair should write or call the Show Chair to remind him/her the cases are available for use.
2. It is the Cabochon Chair's responsibility to bring the cabochon cases to the Federation Show. If the Chair is unable to attend, arrangements should be made to transport the cases to and from the Convention Show.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, CFMS ROTY Chair

chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has another Junior 'Rockhound of the Year' inductee for 2025. You too, could get your special members awarded this prestigious recognition. It's 100% free! So act today! I hope to hear from more of you soon.!

Adriana Eileen Hammack - Junior Member, San Gorgonio Gem & Mineral Society

Adriana Eileen Hammack comes from a long line of "rockhounds". Her Great Grandpa was an avid rockhound and it has continued down the family line to her. She became a member of San Gorgonio Mineral Society three years ago and has attended many classes and has helped with our club when we work during the Riverside County Fair. As a club, we have chosen her as our 2025 Junior Rockhound of the Year award.

Submitted by: Alexa Velazquez, President, San Gorgonio Gem & Mineral Society

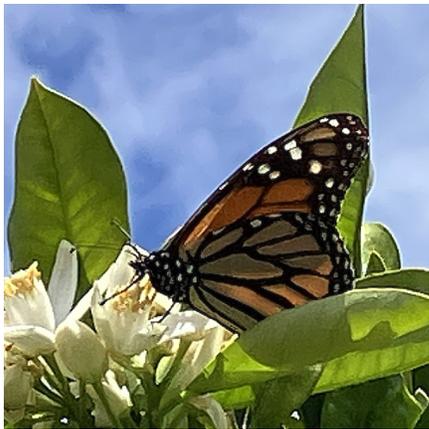
editor's note: the photo which accompanied the write up was not included due to incompatibilities. Photos should be submitted in .jpg format.



EMBRACE CHANGE

Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair

This month, instead of a traditional article, I offer a photo essay taken this spring in my own backyard. Along with the photos, I offer just four little words exemplifying what helps successful clubs survive and thrive and bring beauty to their communities. Those words? Embrace change; transform yourself!



Jim Brace-Thompson photos

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT WORK

By Celia Barnett, Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

WHRC at Canoga Art Walk

On July 17, from 5 pm to 9 pm on the 21000 block of Sherman Way in Canoga Park the community hosts an “Art Walk” where individual artisans can “set up shop” on the sidewalks, both sides of the street, and people can cruise, chat, looky-loo and buy goodies that they see. Our Paty is one of those artisans with her lovely handcrafted candles and soaps and since the spots are free, she contacted people in the club and donated a table and sunshade so Debbie, Barbara and I came out to chat up people right in the neighborhood of our show. Anita is one of those neighbors and she popped in. There are quite a few “artsy” stores right in that area and there were a good amount of passers-by taking in the scene.

The WHRC spot generated a lot of interest and chatting, Debbie and Barbara got signatures and web addresses of quite a few people who stopped to handle the rocks that were there for inspection. At times it looked like the busiest booth on the south side of the street. The only drawback was the parking issue, at times each of us had to race back to “feed the meter.” There were some musicians in attendance, to add to the ambiance.

It was a lot of fun talking to the people (one couple was from Chicago!) and seeing their reactions about the rocks on display and quite a few show flyers were distributed. Paty will keep the club informed about the next one and you should come out - it’s fun.



SEEKING DONATIONS FOR AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosts an annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle, which helps support worthy causes like the AFMS Youth Program and its AFMS/FRA badges that are available free to all local societies. The better the items, the more likely folks will purchase raffle tickets, so I'm reaching out to *you!* I seek donations of raffle items with a minimum value of \$75. Items can be anything rock related – rock or mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry, metalwork, etc. Call or email me to offer a donation. (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbrace@roadrunner.com.) I'll also be at the Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia this November and can pick up items there. CFMS members have proven generous in the past, and here's thanking you in advance as we head into the future!



Silver clay sand dollar

SAFETY MATTERS

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

The Example

The examples we set for the kids around us are profound. Whether it's our own kids, the neighbors' kids, the playground kids, the kids in the grocery store, or the kids on our field trips, kids are watching what we adults do.

Have you ever taken note of the oft-repeated safety message recited by airline flight attendants just prior to take off? There is a section in their message about loss of cabin pressure and the resulting need to take the now-dangling-in-front-of us oxygen masks, pull them out to straighten (un-kink) them and, place the masks on our faces. After we are wearing the masks, we are then directed to place them on the kids traveling with us. There is a reason why we are told to place them on our faces first before placing them on the kids faces. When a kid sees the mask on us first, they will understand that it

is safe and right thing for them to do as well. Like it or not, for better or worse, we set the examples kids learn to adopt.

Just as with aircraft safety, field trip safety is important and if adults set a good example, it can make an impression on kids. Kids will mimic, adopt, accept, follow and learn from the examples we set. Safety issues are no exception to that essential nature of kids. Kids, for the most part, want to grow up, be adults, and do the things adults do. If we, as responsible adults, set good examples that pathway to adulthood will be that much safer for the child.

On the next rock collecting adventure, think about putting your proper footwear on first, wearing your safety goggles first, placing gloves on your hands first. On our upcoming rock collecting outings please mind where you toss your leaverite, mind how you use your collecting tools, pay attention to how we interact with our fellow rockhounds -- the kids are watching. Now, even if the kids are hundreds of feet away from where we are working kids will do what they do best. The curious nature of kids and the little sponges in their heads will absorb the sights of our actions, the words we speak, and take note of our behavior. Even without your being aware, kids are watching us -- that is their nature.

What if the kids around us are far away from our location, too far away to see the details of whether or not we are wearing safety glasses? Should the adults in such an instance let their guard drop and dismiss wearing goggles, or gloves, or using proper tool technique? Well, adults are just grown up kids and we need to protect ourselves too!

Perhaps you have noted the incredible tendency of kids to show up just as we make our greatest mistakes (such as not wearing those goggles). Even without kids around, we adults still deserve to be safe too. It's just that, with kids around, we need to be extra vigilant with our setting a good, or even a great example for them to soak up. Also, please consider this -- by our setting a good example, the parents of the kids around us will have a much easier time teaching kids the right things to do because everyone around the kids will be doing the right things -- what a great relief for a parent of young children! It's no fun for a parent to have to keep saying to their child, "No, don't do what they are doing." or "No, that guy over there is not following the safety rules for the trip." Be safe, act safe, set a safe example, and see the smiles. Be safe 'cause your safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, September, 2015

**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

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: 2025show@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 4, 2025 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd. Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956,
berylman50@aol.com

October 4-5, 2025–Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada Co Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney
Rd., Grass Valley, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (530) 273-0871, jan.2@att.net
Website: <https://www.ncgms.org>

October 11-12, 2025 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
Redwood City Community Activities Bldg
1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA
Hours: 10-5 both days
Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net
Website: <http://poggs.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 18, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
The Downtown Community Center,
250 E. Center Ave., Anaheim, CA
Hours: 9-2
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.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,
gemsow@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>

November 1-2, 2025, Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Ridgecrest Desert Empire Fairgrounds
Field trip on Sunday
Hours: Sat & Sun 9-5
website: iv.gms.org

**National/Regional
Shows:**

*California Federation
TBA*

*Eastern Federation
TBA*

*Midwest Federation
AFMS
May 23-24, 2026
St. Charles, IL*

*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.

HOW TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION

Don't come to meetings. If you do come,
Be late.

If the weather doesn't suit you,
Don't think of coming.

If you attend, find fault with the work of
others.

Never accept an office, it's easier to
criticize.

Be angry if you are not appointed to a
committee.

If your opinion is asked, say nothing.

Afterward, tell everyone how it should
have been done.

Do no more than necessary,
If a few people work tirelessly, complain
that the group is being run by a clique.

Don't tell the leader how the group can
help you achieve certain goals—
But if it doesn't, quit coming.

When you attend a meeting, vote for one
thing then forget about it after you get home,

Agree to everything at the meeting,
disagree later.

Get all the benefits your organization
provides, but don't make a personal
contribution.

Talk about co-operation, but never
practice it.

Anonymous

From *Pseudomorph*, November, 1994. The original
source of this "oldie but goodie" is not known.

2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-7239	slchaisson at yahoo..com
First VP:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
Second VP:	Frank Van Hecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclan5 at att.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
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/>			
All American Club:	Diane Cook (John)	See Second VP	
Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)		cfmsbeac at gmail.com
Bylaws	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Cab Cases–North	Nick Hughes	(650) 400-5095	wildphotonick at gmail.com
Cab Cases–Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See Treasurer	
Cab Cases–South	Bob Knox	(747) 206-8506	knoxrobert211 at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Frank Van Hecke, Chai	See Second VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Earth Science Studies:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Facilities Fund:	OPEN		
Field Trips North:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips South:	OPEN		
Financial Adv Comm:	Fred Ott (Susan)	(530) 677-8440	fred.ott at att.net
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook (John)	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair	See President	
	Sharon Rogow	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	(611) 433-9833	cfms.historian at amlands.org
	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	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		
	2025 Executive Committee		
Membership:	Dick White (Phyllis)	(805) 404-7197	
	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	
Program Aids:	Emmy Lam	(818) 297-7132	cfmsprogramaids at gmail.com
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	
	Executive Committee		
Show Consultant–South:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
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	rockyfiv 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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Pat LaRue, Editor

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