



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #2

February 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

February is the month of love — and while hearts and chocolates may steal the spotlight, those of us in CFMS know that our greatest loves sparkle a little differently. We love the thrill of a successful field trip, the joy of a child discovering their first crystal, the friendships built over display cases and club tables, and the pride we feel when one of our societies hosts a memorable show. These are not just hobbies — they are connections that bind us together like the facets of a beautifully cut gemstone.

As CFMS President, I am continually inspired by the dedication of our volunteers. Every bulletin editor, show chair, education lead, youth mentor, and behind-the-scenes helper gives their time not because they have to — but because they love what the club stands for.

My theme, “**Together We Shine!**”, feels especially meaningful this month. Love is not a single act; it is a series of small, thoughtful contributions that, when combined, create something extraordinary. Whether you are planning a program, mentoring a Pebble Pup, chairing a show committee, or simply lending a hand when needed — you are adding another brilliant facet to our collective gem.

This February, I encourage each of you to take a moment to thank a fellow volunteer, welcome a new member, or invite someone to get more involved. Those simple gestures are the true treasures of a club.

Thank you for sharing your passion, your time, and your hearts with our Federation. I am honored to serve as your President and to walk this journey with you.

Before closing, I would like to invite anyone interested in learning more about **club insurance** to join us for an upcoming **CFMS Zoom meeting in February**. This session will focus on why insurance is so important for our clubs, what **Directors & Officers (D&O) coverage** is, and will include time for any insurance-related questions you may have. Our CFMS Insurance Chair will be on hand to provide answers and guidance.

Please be sure your **board members and club members are receiving the CFMS newsletter**, as this is how we share important information like this.

If you or anyone in your club would like to attend this Zoom or be notified when the date is set, please email me with your **name and email address**, and I will add you to the notification list.

I look forward to connecting with you and helping ensure our clubs remain protected and informed.
With heartfelt appreciation,

Warm regards,

Diane Cook

2026 CFMS President



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 5..... Deadline for March Newsletter
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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

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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.

DUES ARE DUE

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

It’s that time of year again. Societies/clubs are reminded that payment of the CFMS dues and club share of the public liability insurance is due January 1 and delinquent after March 1. The cost is the same as last year—\$10 per member (including juniors). The updated forms are available on the CFMS website and are included with this newsletter as separate attachments. This includes the officer change form.

Please be sure to pass this information on to your treasurer. New to the job? Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions. Do not send payments to McDaniel Insurance Services. All CFMS dues/insurance payments are mailed to CFMS, PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377.

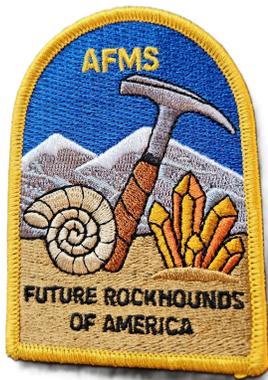


JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Watch for New Developments with AFMS/FRA Badge Program

Lots is happening with the AFMS/FRA Badge Program behind the scenes. A new badge or two are under consideration, and plans are actively being made to break up a couple existing badges (like Rocks & Minerals and Earth Processes) into multiple badges. I'm anticipating fuller announcements about these efforts at the 2026 MWF/AFMS Show & Convention in May, and I'll report on them within these pages. Meanwhile, two changes have already been implemented.



The AFMS/FRA Membership Patch and Rock Star pin have been redesigned with fresh new looks! For details about the Badge Program, check out the AFMS website (<https://www.amfed.org>) and/or email AFMS Junior Programs Lora Hall youth@amfed.org.

AFMS NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL FEBRUARY 2026!

By Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor

When February 2026 rolls around the AFMS Newsletter will be completely digital. There will be no hard copies mailed from AFMS. As always, the newsletter will be posted on the AFMS website. The newsletter or the hotlink directly to the newsletter on the website will be emailed to each of the regional federation editors for them to forward to the clubs in their federation. Each club would then email (forward) the same email or hotlink to their club members. Clubs can print the newsletter for their members who do not use email. See the September AFMS Newsletter for more information about the decision to go digital.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Dec 25

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!



OFFICER CHANGE FORMS NEEDED

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

Does your society/club have new officers for 2026? Did you have a change of address, different contact information? Please take a few moments to complete the officer change form which you will find with this newsletter or on the CFMS website. What do I do with this information?

The information provided on the form is used to create the Society Roster which is distributed to your group's representative at the Convention meeting. Since this year's Convention meeting will be later in the year, I will be emailing the document to whomever you designate as the person to receive CFMS mail. Usually this is the Director or secretary. Please be sure to provide the email addresses of those persons who should receive the CFMS Newsletter. A personal email address is preferred. My email provider tends to reject mailings to addresses linked to club websites.



MORE INSURANCE INFORMATION

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

On the Federation's website Homepage (www.cfmsinc.org), there is a category entitled "Insurance Program" which contains valuable information about the many components of the coverages available to each CFMS society including a sample form entitled "CFMS Informed Consent, Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Liability form". The purpose of this form is to provide a 'template' for use by those societies who conduct field trips, lapidary programs and other such activities in which the participants are exposed to potential bodily injury liability claims against society members. And, while the validity of any such signed 'waiver' form is always questioned, the 'bottom line' has always been this: I'd rather have such a signed form available for my defense attorney rather than nothing other than 'he-said-she-said'.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has one last inductee in our Rockhound of the Year hall of fame before the end of 2025. You too, can get your special members awarded this prestigious recognition. It's 100% free! So act today! You can start sending me your 2026 honorees now.

Carol Santana-Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society

The Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society is pleased to present Carol Santana with the 2025 Rockhound of the Year award. Carol has jumped into our club activities and taken on many tasks these past few years. Recently, she organized our children's activities at our Gems on the Hill show and did an outstanding job. She has served on our Board for a few years now, and currently is our Vice President and Field Trip Coordinator. Along with her husband, Joseph, she represents us at the CFMS meetings. Her academic background is in Geology, and she has also taken metal smithing and jewelry classes. To top it all off she is now an amazing new Mom to beautiful baby Rudy who was born this year. She brings much needed energy to our Club. Hats off to you, Carol, for the dedication and inspiration you bring all of us. Submitted by Karen Alvarez - Board Member Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society

EXPLORING PUBLIC RELATIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair

On December 13, I hosted a Zoom roundtable on "Public Relations through Community Involvement." Although 27 folks expressed interest, in the end we had a group of 6 gathered around our virtual table. (Note to self: *Don't schedule a Zoom 12 shopping days before Christmas!*) Participants came from several clubs across three of the Regional Federations (Midwest, Northwest, California). Four came from California (Ellen Dupuy, Robin Larzelere, Janice Metz, me), one from Ohio (Johan Maertons), and one from Washington (AFMS President Rona Watkins), plus one mystery listener.

We gathered to address one primary question: In what ways has your club worked to raise its profile through community involvement, like Science Nights, classroom visits, community fairs, and the like? We ranged far beyond that, and I have 5 pages of notes, so I'm writing a series articles to do justice to the conversation. This month, I'll focus specifically on community involvement and will explore other good topics that came up next month—and perhaps the next and the next? Here goes Part One!

Working with teachers. The traditional vehicle for community involvement has long been classroom presentations. But how to get your foot in the door? One way is to find out who the district science specialists are and connect with them to get into their Science or STEAM Nights with an earth science booth with fun hands-on activities. One club has a Teacher Station at their annual show to hand out free educational rock samples and packets and to personally connect with teachers and gather email addresses. Prepare a little handout of specific talks club members can give that align with the curriculum, helping teachers with their jobs.

Working with libraries. One club holds their meetings in the local library and, from that, has been able to partner with the library when it holds community events. Another club donated money to their library. Since then, they've received regular invitations to do programs. Another club has made hay via the children's librarian, coming in and giving talks for kids on special days, like International Rock Day. Libraries are great community-minded resources and

often allow you to install displays, post club flyers and show posters, secure meeting space, etc.

Working with museums. One club holds meetings in a local natural history museum and works with them on an annual hands-on Science Day held at and sponsored by the museum. (No cost to the club!) Another club was invited by a local museum to have a booth during a series of Earth Science Week events. To get your foot in the door, invite an expert from the museum to give a talk at one of your monthly meetings and help promote and advertise their special events in your club newsletter and ask that they promote your club events, in turn. Another club has made hay with their local Ag Museum and Arboretum, where they've put in rock gardens and participated in events.

Working with Gem Faires. Did you know that Gem Faires allow nonprofit clubs to have a table? I didn't! You can't sell, but you can provide club info at a space provided free. You don't have to put in the effort of organizing a show, and you get exposed in-person to literally thousands of people due to the high degree of advertising Gem Faire typically does.

Hosting small "themed" events. In addition to—or in place of—hosting a full-scale gem show, consider hosting small, themed events. Ellen's club held a "Road Show" where people could bring in jewelry and gems for appraisals. (The club lined up professional appraisers to take part.) The next year, they did a similar event focused on turquoise with a speaker, and 100 folks came. Such small-scale one-day community events are far easier than running a whole show. Invite nearby clubs to work alongside you.

Participate in Community Days and street festivals. Many towns host many street festivals, but how many clubs have explored how to tap in for a club booth allowing them to highlight the talents of members and club interests? These are good opportunities for members who are jewelry artists to sell their own stuff while promoting the club. (If the booth space comes with a fee, those selling might provide a percentage of their earnings to help the club offset the cost.) One club participates in their community's annual Arts Festival (a sort of "maker" affair) as a nonprofit with 2 table spaces provided. They have free grab bags for kids, a geode cutting station for kids, and hand-made jewelry and rock specimens to sell. They make \$2,500-\$3,000 over the weekend and have done this for 50 years now with club flyers and a sign-up sheet to gather names of potential new members in the booth. When

festivals like this are advertised, check their website for how to be a vendor. They've tried other festivals but none have been nearly as successful for them as the Arts Festival, which is a good match for the lapidary aspect of the club. Another club is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and gets invited to community events via that. In addition to selling stuff, members might also serve as lapidary arts and jewelry-making demonstrators. When people see how easy it is to do some of our arts, like wire-wrap or precious metal clay, they get intrigued that they, too, can do it. Capitalize on interest in the "maker movement" to attract attention of potential new members.

Establish your own museum space. Several CFMS clubs have been fortunate to secure space for their own little museums (e.g., San Diego, Ventura, Fallbrook, etc.), which is a good magnet for attracting school groups, scouts, and home schoolers. Others would like to do likewise, but it's a big challenge finding and maintaining an affordable facility that can help with outreach to schools and the community. This was flagged as an important topic for a future Zoom roundtable: exploring avenues for establishing a home base not only for a club museum, but for a workshop studio, club library, meeting rooms, etc.

That's all for now. I still have three pages of notes where we veered into other topics, so stay tuned! More to come. But before I sign off, folks expressed a desire for more such roundtable Zooms, perhaps even quarterly, and perhaps a social media space where we could share all year long. If you agree, let me hear from you: jbraceth@roadrunner.com.



STILL SEEKING DONATIONS FOR AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

I may sound like a broken record, but here goes AGAIN! AFMS hosts an annual Endowment Fund Raffle to support causes like the AFMS Youth Program and its FRA badges 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 items with a minimum value of \$75. Items can be anything rock related—rock or mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry, metalwork, books, etc. Call or email me to offer a donation. (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com.) The raffle takes place May 23 at the AFMS/Midwest Federation Show in St. Charles, Illinois.

My thanks to folks who have already answered the call. David Springer (VGMS) collected, crafted, and donated a sphere of fluorescent DeeDeeite from Avila Beach. Phyllis White (VGMS) crafted a pendant featuring a Bumblebee Agate cabochon in a sterling silver wire-wrap setting. Susan Chaisson-Walblom (AVGMC & our CFMS Immediate Past-President) donated a dino bone pendant in sterling silver. Diane Cook (VGMS & our new CFMS President) donated a rhodochrosite pendant in gold-filled wire-wrap setting. And I (VGMS) used precious metal clay to craft a 99.9 Fine Silver sand dollar pendant with chain.



I welcome similar items. You don't have to craft them yourself. Jewelry you've purchased is just as good, as are fine specimens of minerals, crystals, or fossils. Let me help you downsize your collection by removing duplicate specimens for a worthy cause!

WHAT'S IN A DATE?

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Have you checked your safety supplies? I have to make a confession. Digging to the depths of the garage last month I came upon a Safety Supplies Kit in a pile of stuff. I do not recall ever purchasing the kit, so it had been there a long time. I brought it into the house, opened it, and then there was rummaging around in it. Oh, my goodness – what I found!

The kit had been an official store bought one, not one assembled of parts and pieces purchased individually and put into a box. It had been advertised as being for an auto. The contents included:

- Individual packets of antibiotic
- Packages of antiseptic wipes
- A tube of burn cream ointment
- Adhesive bandages in several common sizes
- Wound dressings of sterile gauze pads, non-stick pads, rolled gauze, tape
- Individual packages of Acetaminophen (extra strength)
- Individual packages of Anti-Diarrheal
- A cold pack
- Gloves
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Thermometer
- A survival reflective plastic film wrap
- And an instruction manual

Here is my report on the condition of the contents:

- The burn cream had a manufacturers code. Maybe it included a coded expiration date, but I was not sure.
- The adhesive bandages and gauze had neither code nor expiration date. As the kit had been in the garage many years, I could not be sure if the adhesive was still effective.
- The antibiotic had expired in December 1997.
- The acetaminophen expired in October 1999.
- The anti-diarrheal expired in August 1998.
- The foil packs of antiseptic wipes expired in December of 1997.

In many winters worth of ice cold environment and the sometimes dampness of the building in summer, as well as its heat, I could not be sure of the sterility of the gauze pads. As the contents were subject to freezing, did that have detrimental effects on any of the kits' supplies such as the creams and other medications?

There was no indication of needing to keep the contents from freezing or high temperatures. The kit needed a date-over and updating, which had not been accomplished in quite some time. Even though the kits' contents were in a plastic box, it had no gasket to keep it moisture and airtight. As a consideration, please don't let this happen to you. Check the dates and viability of your safety supplies. As a safety recommendation, I suggest a yearly check of the contents of any safety kit. I also recommend the keeping of a log noting the dates the kit is checked and a list of the items contained within.

The kit found in the garage will now be stored in the house and kept at room temperature.

Please have a safe new year. Your safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Feb 25

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, AFMS BEAC

Catch a Title by the Tail . . . Twist it and twirl it and tweak it 'til your reader can't resist it! The first thing a reader sees is the whole page. Graphics, type face, and the right white space will draw his eyes to your title. That's when he decides whether to read what you've written. So how do you come up with a catchy title?

1. Try using alliteration. "Ridge Reveals Rugose Coral" is an example of alliteration, where several words in succession begin with the same letter(s) or sound. For some reason we are drawn to expressions like "Rubber Baby Buggy Bumpers," perhaps because it's a challenge to say it even once!
2. Make a play on words so the title has more than one appropriate meaning. "Mrs. J Rocks!" and "Kids Dig Fossil Bones" each have more than one meaning. Are you curious yet?
3. Ask a question. "There's a Rock in My What?!!" or "What the Heck is a Bucky Ball?" are both questions that can really make your reader's ears stand up. Questions almost beg to be heard as well as seen.
4. Be Direct. If you're writing a "how to" article, you can begin the title with "How to" do whatever you're writing about, but add something that tells the reader why your method is great. "How to Cut Cabs and Keep Your Fingernails" or "How to Clean a Fossil the Easy Way" are both very direct. These titles can also be

written without using "how to." "Cut a Cab and Keep Your Fingernails" is even more direct, as is "Cleaning Fossils With Ease." Another direct title – but not for a "how to" article - is "The Trouble with Fossils." This pulls you in to read because you wonder what kind of trouble this is!

5. Do a "take-off" on a slogan or popular phrase. "Got Labels?" at show time for an article on labels for competitive cases is a take-off on the "Got Milk?" slogan.

6. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find synonyms for what you're writing about. If you use a computer you may have both as part of your word processing software.

7. Brainstorm with a buddy or your editor. Bounce words and ideas off each other -this can be fun and educational. There's nothing like a good laugh!

A catchy title can make the difference between an article that's read and enjoyed and reprinted, and a good article that readers miss. Use the title to sell your reader on the article.

reprinted from my original column, 7/2006.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Oct 23

I'M A NEW MEMBER

I see you at the meetings
But you never say "Hello".
Your're busy all the time your're there
With those you already know.
I sit amongst the people;
Yet I'm a lonesome guy;
the "New Members" are as strange as I,
and the "Old timers" pass me by.
But darn it, you people asked me in,
and you talked of fellowship;
You could just step across the room,
But you never make the trip.
Why can't you nod and say "Hello"
Or stop to shake my hand.
Then go sit among your friends?
Now that I'd understand.
I'll be at the next meeting,
Perhaps a a nice evening to spend;
Do you think you could introduce yourself?
I want to be your Friend.

From *Canaveral Moonstone* via *Cobb-L-Stones*, 9/1994

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS TO A GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

By Ed Pedersen

Over the past 20 years, I have been a member of four gem and mineral clubs in three different states. Members of each of these groups, and members of similar groups expressed concern over two trends. These trends were 1—the declining number of members and 2—the increase of average age of the membership. Nationally there two trends have been observed since the early 1970s. During that time it was reported that the number of “rockhounds” exceeded the number of stamp collectors. Part of this decline is due to a “passing of the fad” as those with marginal interest dropped out. Another part of the decline is due to “burn out” suffered by hobbyists after a number of years of intense interest in one area. Some of the decline is due to clubs and their members “getting into a rut” and dropping or de-emphasizing the activities and actions that attract new members.

As a whole, rockhounds are among the friendliest people you will ever meet. They are willing to teach, share, or just talk about their hobby to anyone. So why don't the clubs attract new members, especially younger ones? I feel that part of this is due to the basic nature of any hobby or social group. One aspect of any organization is that only 10% to 25% of the “card carrying” members actually work to support the organization. The other 75% to 90% pay their dues and expect to benefit from the club. If these members are asked to work, other than occasionally, many of them leave. Those who are willing to work will be able to give only what time they can. Those with the most time are usually the older members who are retired. These members, being the most active are the most visible to the public and they do most of the actual recruiting. The members they recruit are often those with common backgrounds and interests.

To understand how interests affect the type of new members acquired we need to look at some generalizations about our hobby. The following statements are gross oversimplifications based on the real and perceived attitudes of rockhounds and the general public. The first is that mineral collecting is only for people with money. The second is that lapidary work is the only part of rockhounding that you don't need a college degree for (the I'm not smart enough to collect fossils or mineral specimens syndrome). Third, that lapidary work, especially

faceting, take a lot of expensive equipment and space. The fourth, and most nearly true, is that you have to be retired to have enough time to cut and polish rocks.

The net result of these attitudes is that many individuals who might be prospective club members are scared off. Combining this with a club structure and activities schedule determined by a club leadership composed mostly of older members further reduces the chances of attracting new members. According to my unofficial survey, the valuable and desirable new members are young and middle-aged adults. If this is true, a club effort to target these individuals is required.

What factors are important to these individuals?

- A wide range of activities (mineral, fossils, lapidary and an opportunity to learn, study groups, classes, field trips and club meeting programs that are diverse and colorful),
- Club meeting times that fit the schedules of working people, especially those with smaller children. This means meetings that don't last too late and meeting on nights that conflict with the fewest of other activities.
- A minimum of work requirements.
- A maximum of field trips and “more exciting” events.
- A minimum of “club business” conducted at the club meeting. Members come to visit and see the program, not have something they can read in the newsletter.
- A strong emphasis on “show and tell” at the meetings. Display tables for before and after meeting discussions.

These are the best sources of new members of all ages:

- A club show or other event that draws local citizens with a common interest.
- Offering classes or study groups in the local community. Classes at senior centers and recreational agencies.
- Word of mouth, especially in areas where people with a geologic background are employed.
- Displays at local schools, libraries, museums and visitor centers.

From *The Pick and Shovel* via *Del Air Bulletin*, 4/1992



**2026 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**

2026

February 21-22, 2026 - Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
1201 West 10th St, Antioch, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 28-March 1, 2026 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
McCormic Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive (Solano
County Fairgrounds), Vallejo, CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: (707) 644-9764, vgms01@yahoo.com
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

February 12-March 1, 2026 – Indio, CA

San Geronio Mineral and Gem Society
Riverside County Fairgrounds, 46350 Arabia St.,
Indio, CA 92201
Hours: Thu-Fri (12-13th, 19-20th, 26-27th) 3 pm-
10 pm. Sat-Mon (14th-16th) 10 am-10 pm and
Sat-Sun (21-22nd, 28th-March 1) 10 am-10 pm.
Contact: (951) 963-6751,
peggyrichard@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

February 28-March 1, 2026 – Newark, CA

East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club
The Newark Pavillion, 6430 Thorton Ave.,
Newark
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (510) 353-3787, info@ebml.club
Website: <http://ebml.club>

March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W.
Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd., Apple
Valley, CA
Hours: 9-5
Contact: (760) 490-8401
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 14-15, 2026 – Turlock, CA

The Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N
Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: mgibson_76@hotmail.com
Website:
<http://motherlodemineralsociety.com/>

March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: 12-3
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 20-22, 2026 – Clovis

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo, 748 Rodeo Dr, Clovis, CA
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://www.fgms.rocks>

March 21-22, 2026 – San Jose, CA

Santa Clara Gem and Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Tully
Rd, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@scvgms.org
Website: <https://www.scvgms.org>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W
Ave H, Lancaster, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: marylandoriolo@gmail.com
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore,
CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact:
lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

April 11-12, 2026, Mariposa, CA

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

April 11-12, 2026 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem
Society
Placerville Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.,
Placerville, CA
Contact: (530) 676-2472,
office@edcmgs.org
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 25-26, 2026 – Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W.
Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

April 24-26, 2026 – Paradise, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Club
Mechoopda Event Center, 149 Openshaw
Rd., Butte Valley, CA
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: paradisegemmineral@gmail.com
Website:
<http://www.paradisegemmineral.com>

August 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts, The
Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,
Escondido, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: pgmshow@gmail.com
Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV

**Reno Gem & Mineral Society
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV, Silver
State Pavilion**
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact:
showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org
Website: <https://renogms.org>

September 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds
Rd., Monterey, CA 93940
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

National/Regional Shows:

*California Federation
September 18-20, 2026
Reno, NV*

*Eastern Federation
October 18-20, 2026
Charleston, WV*

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

*Northwest Federation
March 20-22, 2026
Missoula, MT*

*Rocky Mountain Federation
July 9-12, 2026
Tulsa, OK*

*South Central Federation
TBA*

*Southeast Federation
TBA*

**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/

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

THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU



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

via Golden Spike News 11/01

2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
First VP:	Frank VanHecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vancllook.cfms at att.net
Second VP:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at cssurfers.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Madison Vazquez	(714) 290-7103	Madva5333 at gmail.com
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net
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All American Club:	Diane Cook (John)	See President	
Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)	(734) 635-2524	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 2 nd VP	
Cab Cases–South	Robert Seaton	(805) 535-9488	launchxps at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Diane Cook	See President	
	Frank VanHecke	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Bob Papac, Chair	See Second VP	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Long Range	
	Diane Cook	See President	
	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
Earth Science Studies:	Bob Papac	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceth 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
	Diane Cook	See President	
	Frank VanHecke	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Sharon Rogow, Chair	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
	TBD		
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	(611) 433-9833	cfms.historian at amlands.org
	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet/Website:	Terry Wilson	(609) 744-6364	Terry at terryfic.com
Insurance	Fred Ott	(530) 558-5387	fred.ott at att.net
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceth at roadrunner.com
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
	All living past presidents		
	2026 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	
	Erin Valenzuela	Colleen McGann	Carol Santana
	Jim Barton	Debbie Brooks, 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
Public Relations:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See Jr. Activities	
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rules Committee:	Colleen McGann, Chair	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Long Range Planning	
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	(702) 499-0272	bssolomon at aol.com
Scholarship–AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Scholarship–CFMS	Bob Papac	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 Electronic Communications	
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:	Terry Wilson	See Internet	

CFMS NEWSLETTER

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Pat LaRue, Editor

