



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #6

June 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

Summer is arriving quickly, and there are many exciting things happening within the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Planning continues for our **2026 CFMS Convention in Reno**, and I am pleased to share that the competitive, non-competitive exhibitor forms and the advance registration form are now being finalized. These forms will be posted on the [CFMS website](#) and, if timing allows, will also be included as an attachment with this newsletter. I encourage everyone to take a look and begin making plans to join us in September for what promises to be a wonderful convention held in conjunction with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems" show. We will also be scheduling the Show Zoom. There's still time to sign up and share ideas on our club shows. Please send me an email.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies show and activities will be taking place in late May. AFMS events are a wonderful way to connect with fellow rockhounds, exchange ideas, and celebrate the many aspects of our hobby. I always learn something worth sharing. Next month I will have a report to share with what the AFMS is up to.

Looking ahead to the Reno convention, one of the educational opportunities I hope to offer is a class on **competitive exhibits via a zoom**. Many members have expressed interest in learning more about how to enter exhibits, prepare cases, and understand the judging process. Whether you are new to exhibiting or have participated before, this class should provide helpful information and encouragement to take part in one of the most rewarding parts of our federation shows.

Thank you for all you do for your clubs and for CFMS. I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our members throughout California and beyond. As always, if you have ideas, questions, or would like to assist with the convention, please feel free to reach out. Together We Shine!

Diane Cook



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 5. Deadline for July Newsletter
July 5. Deadline for Aug Newsletter
Aug 16-22. Camp Paradise wk 1
Aug 23-28. Camp Paradise Wk 2
Sept 18-20. CFMS Show and Convention

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. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I’m once again asking the various committee chairs to send a message letting the membership know what you’re up to as a committee.

DONATIONS

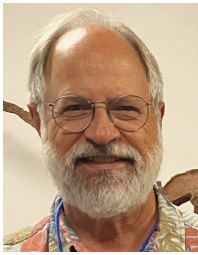
Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$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.





JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Seeking Three Heroes *Will you be one?*

Heroes step up to the plate when others won't. Heroes are role models kids look up to and want to be someday. Heroes help save the day. Will you be a hero?

Sadly, despite three earlier pleas in the pages of this newsletter, we still have no judges for our CFMS Junior Achievement Awards contest. Rules call for members from three different CFMS clubs to serve as judges so as to avoid bias in evaluating applicants. One of this year's applicants is from my own Ventura club, so I need to recuse myself. Kids who have entered this year hail from the Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Lapidary Society, and Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, so I need three judges who are not members of these clubs.

Can you help? Please?

These awards acknowledge kids in two age groups: under 12 and 12-to-18. Kids submit applications and winners earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. This year, we have four applicants, two in each age group. And yet, despite asking each month for four months now, we still have no judges. I try to be an optimist. But my optimism is fading because it's starting to seem like no one cares. Please, prove me wrong.

The judging sheet is short and straightforward, so the task is not a huge one. You should be able to complete it in one quick sit-down session. This year's CFMS Convention won't take place until the end of September, you'll be given ample time for judging. Let's all join together to recognize the outstanding kids within our ranks! Please: take time to contact me right now (as in, this very moment) to volunteer your help: jbraceth@roadrunner.com. I still believe in heroes, and I know you're out there. Let the four kids who have taken the time and effort to support their clubs know that their efforts are valued and will be honored. Be a hero.

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 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. Due to price increases due not only to copy cost but to postage, these will no longer be mailed. 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. PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!!

MORE JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr. Activities

“Crack the News” Seeks Cub Reporters

“Crack the News” is an AFMS-sponsored newsletter for-kids/by-kids. Editor Denis Gertenbach (of the Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado) welcomes submissions of brief rock-, fossil-, or lapidary-related articles, field trip reports, poems, cartoons, photos, and more. Kids who send material earn a “George the Geode” 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 society! Full details, along with past issues of “Crack the News,” are posted on the AFMS website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. The latest edition was just recently released and is posted there. Check it out!

Please share this info today with parents and kids within your society and with your club’s youth leader if you have one. Let’s all help our outstanding kids earn recognition while having fun!

Seeking Responses for a Survey on Clubs with Kids

The Juniors Program committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is doing a survey of all the seven regional federations to get a handle on youth involvement within our ranks. The survey involves just four simple questions. Can you please email me your answers to the following?

- 1 - What is the name of your society?
- 2 - Do you have kids under the age of 18 formally signed up within your society?
- 3 - Do you have an active program for those kids with a designated youth leader?
- 4 - Do you utilize the AFMS/FRA badge program or the other free resources provided by the AFMS Youth Program?

Easy-peasy! Send your answers to jbraceth@roadrunner.com, and thank you!

SEEKING “GOLDEN BEAR AWARD” NOMINEES FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CFMS

Golden Bear Committee

The CFMS Golden Bear Award is an honor for especially outstanding service to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The CFMS Board of Directors established the award in 1961 and called for it to consist of a lapel pin, plaque, or other award form. It is presented to a person or couple who is a member of a CFMS-affiliated society and whom the CFMS wishes to honor by conveying public appreciation and recognition. Most past awardees have generously offered years of sustained and committed service.

Nominations for people who have performed outstanding work for CFMS should be submitted to members of the Golden Bear Committee. Any nominee must be a member of a CFMS-affiliated society/club. Please note that nominee/s should not be informed of their nomination. It should come as a surprise honor during the Awards Banquet at our Annual Show & Convention.

More than one person may receive the award in any given year. Nominations may be made by the CFMS Executive Committee, a Federation Director of a member society/club, and/or a CFMS Committee Chair.

ONLY CFMS SERVICE IS CONSIDERED FOR THE GOLDEN BEAR AWARD. In other words, this is not to honor service to an individual member Society. (For that, we have the Rockhound of the Year award program.) Simple documentation must accompany the nomination. Deadline for nominations is August 15.

Please submit all nominations to Golden Bear Committee members:

- Sharon Rogow (Chair)
sharonrr@cox.net
- Bural LaRue
bplarue@earthlink.net
- Sue Webb
sswebb@gmail.com
- Susan Chaisson-Walblom
slchaisson@yahoo.com
- Diane Cook
dianecook.cfms@gmail.com

Please email your nomination letter to Sharon Rogow with a cc: to all members of the committee. We look forward to honoring an outstanding member of our CFMS community at the Annual Convention taking place September 18-20 in Reno, Nevada.

THE HEARTBEAT OF CAMP PARADISE

By Stevi Bryant

What if you could combine the artistry of lapidary with a vibrant community? At Camp Paradise, I discovered that this perfect blend isn't just imagined— it's experienced.

Last August, buzzing with nervous excitement, I wound through sleepy forest roads to a little camp tucked away in Strawberry Valley, California. Breathing in the fresh mountain air, I took in what would become my creative sanctuary for the week. After checking in, I claimed my rustic room and transformed it into a cozy haven. Armed with fuzzy blankets and a mini fridge stocked with snacks, I felt unstoppable.

Camp begins with a shared meal, often where the best memories are made. After nourishing our travel-weary bodies, we gather for orientation, where a vibrant community spirit immediately emerges. As a first-year attendee, I was in awe of the love and dedication poured into this lapidary retreat. Here, everyone contributes, and everyone flourishes. If you're a newcomer, don't worry— you've already found your friends.

I woke up on the first morning with a mix of excitement and a dreaded head cold— a parting gift from my travels that revived an illness I thought I'd beaten. Though I had my heart set on learning intarsia, low energy forced a change of plans. I reluctantly resigned myself to a day of making gem trees, the activity I was least enthusiastic about. Yet, this twist of fate turned into one of the most unforgettable experiences of my week; I was truly surprised by the pure joy I found in creating my magical willow gem tree.

Thanks to a speedy recovery, I spent the week immersed in learning intarsia, chain maille, and stone carving. The relaxed atmosphere and personable instructors fostered a space where friendships took root, and cherished moments grew into lasting memories. Here mere acquaintances turned into a tight-knit community. The true magic was in the laughter and vulnerability shared over simple moments, forming a heartbeat that brought the whole camp to life.

While learning is the heart of Camp Paradise, the special events— specifically the silent auction and 'Sell-O-Rama'— add another layer of excitement. I've

never been so invested in a silent auction! The Sell-O-Rama, a bustling bazaar for all things lapidary, is irresistible. I walked away with several treasures, but my favorite was the soft stone carving I won. It holds special meaning because I watched my instructor create it under the pine trees while she taught me that very same craft.

Camp ends with a final showcase, coming full circle to celebrate achievements and lasting friendships. After sharing our accomplishments, a graduation ceremony honors each person with a charming certificate and badge. We finish with a swift, collaborative teardown—the perfect testament to our united spirit.

It was in the quiet afterward that the true weight of the week settled in. As I wound back through the still woods, my heart was full, reflecting on the special experience of Camp Paradise and the collective effort behind it. In just one week, we spun simple moments into a golden thread of community that held us together long after the final hour.

You are happily humming along and then “snap”, you drop it! After the naughty words you still have two halves or more of your stone. What to do? Why you come to Camp Paradise and let Peter Adams show you how to carve your broken stone. Or have Janet Longueira help you with a cold connection setting. Or Glenn Fiala will help you wire wrap it. Maybe you need a stone tchotchke. Priscilla Bilyeu will help you make a Ming Tree. The picture is an example of what I did when two stones broke. I carved them. The stone on the right was just boring. Carve it!

Camp is filling up fast. Sign up now to learn more at CFMSinc.org.



Submitted by Jill Atkins

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS/CFMS PR Chair

Using “Rock Holidays” to Connect with Your Community

During a Zoom roundtable, several of us noted how we’ve tapped into “rock holidays” in pursuing community involvement and public relations. For instance, our local children’s librarian invited me to talk about rocks to kids on “International Rock Day” as part of their summer reading program, where I was also able to promote our club’s youth program. My club was also invited to have a booth with hands-on displays of California minerals during “Earth Science Week” festivities at a local natural history museum. It was suggested that I publish a listing of these and other little-known rocky holidays that you and your club might use as launch pads for engaging with your community, so here goes!

January. There’s an “Old Rock Day” at the beginning of the month while “National Black Diamond Month” runs all month long.

February. “National Wedding Ring” day falls on my birthday of February 3. It’s suggested that married folks admire their rings, perhaps have them engraved with a special message, or design whole new rings and renew vows.

March. “National Jewel Day” falls on March 13 each year. You’re encouraged to don your best or most favored jewels on that day. Hmm. Sounds suspicious. Was it perhaps initiated by muggers to concentrate potential victims on one convenient day of the year?

April. “Geologists Day” and “Earth Day” both occur this month. While Geologists Day doesn’t seem to garner much attention, many community events occur during Earth Day, and your club may well find opportunity to have a booth space at such an event. For example, my club is always invited to an Ecofest run as a fundraiser by a local charter school.

May. “International Dinosaur Day” falls on the third Tuesday of this month while “Nickel Day” falls on May 16. Perhaps it celebrates the nickel content of the asteroid that did in the dinosaurs? In any event, dinos are perennially popular and a great draw for a kids’ program.

June. Hmm. There’s another Dino Day on June 1 (??), followed closely by National Caves & Karst Day on June 6, which was initiated by the International Show Caves Association. (Yes, there’s an association for everything!)

July. Celebrate “International Drop a Rock” day on the 3rd by painting a fun and positive message on a rock and dropping it in your neighborhood (preferably not on your neighbor’s foot), then celebrate “International Rock Day” on the 13th. Don’t confuse it with “World Rock Day” which also falls on the 13th but celebrates the sort of rock that requires an electric guitar.

August. Come August 8, “Wear Your Mom’s Jewelry Day” helps to “keep the chain of love alive.” Then hide Mom’s jewelry for others to find on “International Geocaching Day” on the third Saturday of the month. Okay, this next one’s a stretch, but enjoy “World Rock Paper Scissors Day” on August 27, playing a game that supposedly originated in China’s Han Dynasty. To learn more about it, go to the World Rock Paper Scissors Association in Ottawa, Canada. (As stated, yes, there’s an association for everything!)

September. Come the first Sunday of the month, pamper your rock on “National Pet Rock Day,” then get your pet a companion on September 16 during “Collect Rocks Day.” Perhaps you club could sponsor a field trip or an Easter Egg hunt with plastic eggs filled with rocks and minerals?

October. Every year on the Wednesday of the second full week of October, the National Park Service and varied museums hold fossil-themed events across the country for “National Fossil Day,” so have your club hold a public event, too, or see if you can join an event being planned by a nearby natural history museum. And then there’s always Halloween on October 31, when you and fellow club members can dress up as your favorite rocks or give Charlie Brown a rock rather than candy when he knocks on your door with bag in hand.

November. Apparently, this whole month is “Real Jewelry Month,” so no lab-grown diamonds allowed? If you want to stretch things a bit, “GIS Day” lands on the third Wednesday of November, and “Red Planet Day” lands on November 28, the day the U.S. launched Mariner 4 for the first successful flyby of our neighboring planet Mars.

December. December 6 is solemn in that “National Miner’s Day” honors the 362 victims of the worst mine disaster in the U.S. in 1907. Feeling down about that, perhaps “National Wear Your Pearls Day” on December 15 will perk you up. It honors how a little bit of grit thrown at you in life might eventually turn you into a true gem.

To learn more about these little-known holidays, just use Google. Lots of info pops up, along with suggestions on how to celebrate each, complete with suggested activities. See how your club might turn some into events that draw in the community while raising your profile in ways fun and sometimes funny.



Celebrate dinosaurs and nickel in May!

READY, SET, EXHIBIT!

CFMS Rules Committee

With dates now set for the CFMS Show & Convention in Reno (September 18-20), it's not too soon to start planning your competitive exhibits. Details and exhibitor application forms will be posted soon. In the meantime, look through your collections and your lapidary and jewelry works, get your creative juices flowing, and start reviewing the Uniform Rules (<https://www.amfed.org/contests/Rules>) to see what division and class you'll be exhibiting in at Reno. It'll be here sooner than you think. Here's looking forward to seeing your great display!



WEBSITE UPDATE

by Terry Wilson

The CFMS website has a new look and feel for the Member Club List page (and Club Shows page). Please, please, please look over your club's listing in the club list. Even if it all looks okay, it wouldn't hurt to submit a fresh Club Update Form (online only - there is no paper form), as there might be additional info to add. Please note that the annual Officers Change form you fill out goes to the office for administrative purposes, not for the website, so don't assume any changes you make there will trickle down to the website, especially if it is a paper form mailed in.

Get your show on the show page as soon as you can. If you have additional information to add later, or if your flyer isn't done yet, you can always email them to me later via the contact form.

Soon we will be mailing the newsletter out via groups.io and have additional ways for us to communicate internally. It will save a lot of time and work arounds when emailing to all of the directors.

COMMUNICATE FOLKS!

By Beverly Moreau, past CFMS President (1998)

One of the most important aspects of an organization is how its officers and members communicate with each other. Most people develop a certain style of communicating. The many become their trademark (unknown to them), and can be very important to the success of the group.

Beware of the individual who has charge of some important aspect of the Show or Club who, for weeks and months on end, utters not a word about progress on the task at hand. Of course, everyone is absolutely certain that all is well, sure that he/she is taking care of all the details in his/her usual efficient manner. Surprise! Three weeks before the show, up pops our member who announces he/she hasn't been able to do the job because personal and family problems had to take precedence.

Then take a look at another member over there (sometimes considered the club loudmouth, who just can't stop talking about the things that have been done to accomplish his/her assignment. It might sound like bragging but gee, learn to put up with it. At least you know what he/she has been up to!

The difference in the two individuals is what is called communication. One is probably frustrated beyond words, not knowing how to take care of his/her end of the bargain, and too scared to admit the truth to anyone. Intimidated, no doubt, by the other person's constant commentary on his/her progress.

One hasn't yet learned to communicate his/frustration, and the other just likes to talk about it because of the good feelings that his/her efforts are paying off. Perhaps we could help both of these persons to communicate in a more positive fashion if, during the club or show meeting the President or Show Chairman had a checklist of the various tasks that are pending.

If each of the responsible parties was called upon to give a short progress report, he or she would have an opportunity to air any difficulties or roadblocks that stand in the way of accomplishing the task, or ask for assistance—in a timely manner. Conversely, it would be an opportunity to report on some of the glowing successes and accomplishments to date, in an appropriate forum.

If you want your club to run efficiently, don't be afraid to ask for intermittent progress reports. It may give the responsible individuals just the chance they're looking for to let off some steam (or prevent a disaster). And as a bonus, communication just may promote peace of mind.

Originally published in the April, 1998 *CFMS Newsletter*

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

June 20, 2026 – Bellflower, CA
Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
14515 Blaine Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706
Hours: 9-4
Contact: (310) 413-4671,
gyunellallen@sbcglobal.net
Website: <https://delersgemclub.wordpress.com>

June 27-28, 2026 – Culver City, CA
Culver City Rock & Mineral Society
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland
Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
Hours: Sat 10=6, Sun 10-5
Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

July 31-August 2, 2026 – Nipomo, CA
Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Rd.,
Nipomo, CA 93444
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com, (805)
929-2783
Website: <https://oms-inc.org>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi
Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" Street,
Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgms.net>

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
Reno Sparks Convention Center
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact:
showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org
Website: <https://renogms.org>

September 19-20, 2026 – Chico, CA
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St.,
Chico, CA 95928
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org
Website: <https://featherriverrocks.org/show-2/>

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>

September 19-20, 2026 – Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.,
Arcadia CA 91007
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239,
marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 26-27, 2026 – San Luis Obispo,
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna
Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: 2026show@slogem.org
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea>

October 10-11, 2026 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society and the
Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Community Activities Building, Redwood
City, CA 94061
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: impresciacconstruction@gmail.com
(650) 575-3144
Website: <http://piggs.org>

October 17-18, 2026 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa
Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: vcommons@outlook.com,
(408) 691-7823
Website: srmgs.org

October 24-25, 2026 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
6151 H Street, Sacramento CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 622-5819,
gemshow@sacgemshow.com
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

November 7-8, 2026 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral and Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600
Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: luannz@att.net
Website: <http://www.sdgm.org>

November 14-15, 2026 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road,
Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com>

**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.



SILENCE

By Billy Benyon

There is a silence that you hear and feel deep in the woods or at sunset in the desert when for a few moments the birds are hushed and the wind is stilled, but the most silent silence in the world is when the president of the club asks for a volunteer. PLEASE - stop sitting on YOUR good intentions and dare to say YES, I'LL HELP. Remember, it is not THEIR club or SOMEONE ELSE'S club, it is EVERYONE'S club and YOU are needed to make it work and grow Please remember being busy may be a reason but not an excuse. Everyone is busy (if in doubt check any officer's calendar. The reason for this article is this, YOUR help is needed, so say YES when called on, or be daring-VOLUNTEER.

From *Eureka News*, 10/84, via *Glacial Drifter* 2/87 and reprinted in the *Glacial Drifter* 2/98.

Editor's comments: This is what I call a golden oldie that is just as valid today as it was nearly 40 years ago.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR EDITOR

There are times I probably sound like a broken record, but I'm not going to stop asking the persons who signed on to be a committee chair to contribute to the contents of the newsletter. Our membership wants to hear from you from time to time. A couple years ago one of the chairmen mentioned that he would contribute an article or two about his particular committee and what it was all about. Guess what; I'm still waiting.

I do ghost write a committee report from time to time as does another of my regular contributors. Fortunately I still have a file drawer of items clipped from exchange newsletters accumulated from the many years I edited a club newsletter. Whereas some of this material is dated and not relevant today, most of it is as relevant today as it was when originally written.

The challenge of obtaining relevant content for a newsletter is not unique to a federation newsletter. During the years I edited at least one club newsletter most months getting content was not easy. There were times I felt pulling teeth would be easier than getting original items from the membership. I'm willing to bet that many of you who edit a newsletter for your club have the same situation.

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Yes, that is the old refrain from a dear uncle before he once again recited one of his favorite jokes. All the folks within ear-shot had indeed heard the joke for who knows how many times.

Joke telling aside, repetition does have a place in our activities. Think of the elders in ancient times who recited stories again and again, because oral traditions were the only means of keeping a record of events in their shared history. Repetition of important stories cemented those stories into the hearts and minds of the people. Repetition helped people remember important information.

Repetition also has a modern equivalent, especially in matters of safety. In one company's weekly tool-box safety meetings, messages to wear safety glasses, hearing protection, steel-toe'd safety shoes, and to utilize gloves to protect from scrapes, scratches, and cuts had to be repeated and repeated and repeated. The reasons for the repetition were clear – workers come and go, managers come and go, foremen come and go.

The other reason for repetition is the same in the rock hobby – sometimes passions and enthusiasm get in ahead of safety concerns, so reminders are helpful. All this is similar to what happens in our clubs – new members join, new officers are elected, and safety committee chairs change. In addition, the passions in our hobby are strong. Repetition also plays a part in a club's safety history. Where has a club collected? In what activities has it engaged? What safety issues have been found in its workshop? All such areas may have had matters of safety arise. If there have been such issues, we certainly would not want them to repeat. If matters of safety arise, having a collected wisdom and a history of safety records can help prevent future issues.

Thankfully, we do not have to rely solely on utilizing only oral traditions. A club can record written safety incidents (perhaps in file folders or computer files). There may also be photographic records, or even video records of safety matters in a club's history. All those records would be specific to one's club and club history. Hopefully, all those records would be passed from one club safety chair to the next.

To broaden the clubs general safety knowledge, additional accident prevention and safety information is available through a myriad of sources. Hobby magazines occasionally offer safety articles. Safety tips appear in many club newsletters (a great reason to share newsletters among clubs). Clubs share safety programs with other clubs. There are informal communications among many people in the hobby with the effort to keep people safe. We also have a plethora of safety information from manufacturers, insurance companies, and internet websites. In matters of medical safety, information is available in many places.

Instead of an elder orally repeating the history of a group, we have, at our finger tips, a wealth of safety "history" available to us in our clubs. A key to using that information is to keep it fresh in our minds by repetition. Keep updated on medical aid ideas, keep up to date on workshop safety, keep updated on hand tool, glove, safety glasses, and hearing protection because a club's safety matters.

Oh, and that dear uncle's retelling of his favorite joke? Everyone had heard it before but no one stopped him from telling it again... and everyone smiled.

Please be safe and do whatever you do safely. Your safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, May, 2026



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CFMS Newsletter
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Pat LaRue, Editor



Jackpot of Gems Show

Presented by Reno Gem & Mineral Society



September 18-20, 2026

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 S Virginia St., Reno, NV

Dealers

Demonstrators

Speakers

Non-Competitive Exhibits

Competitive Exhibits

Friday 10-7

Saturday 10-7

Sunday 10-5