



The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the
Sacramento Mineral Society
Sacramento, California

SMS

April 2007
Volume 67, No. 4

President's Message

Now that we have all survived the 2007 January ice age and the short but heavy rains of February, we have come to the nicer, warmer time of year that all rockhounds look forward to. That's right – rockhounding season. Consisting of field trips and excursions where the rockhounding addiction takes over and you grab every fancy, sparkly rock in sight even if you have no place left to put it.

All joking aside, March has been a busy month at the clubhouse, shop and yard. I will start by taking time to give well-deserved thanks to **Frank Fawcett** and **Frank Zbierski** for the major cleaning that they gave the clubhouse, followed by rearrangement of the library area to the rear of the clubhouse so that it gives easier access to the reference material to all members that choose to use it. They, along with **Carl Zimmerman**, cleaned up and moved all the excess rocks that had been collecting in the front of the clubhouse to give more room for meetings and activities. **Frank Fawcett** and I also spent some time removing a large portion of the wall dividing the clubhouse so that we will have a larger, unobstructed view of the activities taking place in the front of the clubhouse during meetings; there was a lot of mess and debris to clean up on the afternoon of the educational meeting. And finally, thanks go out to **Les Clark** for bringing his trailer over and hauling the debris to the dump.

On the workshop side, we are going into the second month with all five saws working in the saw shop, which makes it really nice for being able to get everyone's rocks cut during the time that we are here on Wednesdays and Saturdays. However, while I'm on this subject, I'm not quite sure that we are collecting for all the cutting that is being done. Remember that there is a minor charge for having the rocks cut in the shop. This helps offset the cost of the blade wear and oil for the saws. So please remember to include the cutting fees in the monies that you pay on the days that you use the shop. Thank you.

You will also see some changes in the yard, the first thing being the nicely manicured flowerbed at the front of the clubhouse. The work getting the bed ready for plants was primarily done by **Frank Fawcett** with a little help from **Katerina Beguhl**. Frank also brought the first flowers and with help from Katerina, planted them. **Kris Jarusevicius** also brought in and planted some other flowers. This gives the front a little nicer look.

There has also been a lot of work done to the rock piles and I would love to give mention to the great people that have taken the time to get the obsidian all back in their cages as well as straightening up a lot of the other rock areas, but I am not aware of who they are. So thank you. You do know who you are. There are also

(Continued on page 3)



Signs of Spring... A seemingly not-so-smart mourning dove decided that a plastic bucket lid on a shelf near the shop was the place to build her nest and leave a few special donations. Alas, after a few of the club members noticed, she apparently abandoned her treasures. Nonetheless, isn't it simply amazing what natural wonders are attracted to the SMS??

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Sacramento Mineral Society

P.O. Box 160544 ♦ Sacramento, CA, 95816

Founded February 1936 ♦ Colors: Blue & Gold

Member of:

- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- CO-OP Field Trip Association

Location and Meeting Times:

SMS Clubhouse
4205 Lemay Street, Rancho Cordova, CA

Business Meeting:

2nd Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Educational Meeting:

3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

Visitors are always welcome.

Shop open Saturday and Wednesday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Shop fee: \$7.00

Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year/Juniors \$1.00

Web Site: www.sacmineralsociety.org

Mission Statement

The Sacramento Mineral Society is dedicated to promoting interest in and increasing knowledge and understanding of mineralogy and the related sciences and lapidary and the related arts; to promote and organize field trips, to encourage the study of geological formations and the collection and preservation of minerals as they occur in nature.

SMS Goal

The goal of the Sacramento Mineral Society is to gain and maintain an active membership of adults and juniors who are interested in mineralogy and the related sciences, and lapidary and the related arts, and who will eventually carry our club into the future. Our club is about learning and teaching. We all have something to learn and each of us has something to teach. We share our passion for minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts.



The right to copy is freely granted to all AFMS-affiliated clubs and its members with proper credit given to *The Matrix*. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise noted.

Deadline for submission of items is the 25th of each month preceding publication. Submission of items by email is preferred and should be addressed to: sms-editor@pacbell.net. All other items should be mailed to the attention of the editor at the SMS address:
P.O. Box 160544, Sacramento, CA 95816

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Directors 2007-2008:	Carl Zimmerman	(916) 739-1279	cz4744@netzero.net
	Tarance Beguhl	(916) 519-2590	t1beagle@aol.com

Committees and Chairs

By-Laws:	OPEN (3 positions)	Shop Advisors:	Stan Henneman
Display:	Carl Zimmerman		Carl Zimmerman
Field Trips:	Dan Brown	Shop Foreman:	Tarance Beguhl
Groundskeeper:	OPEN	Juniors:	Bill Elkins
Historian:	Frank Fawcett	Custodian:	Joy Fergoda
Librarian:	Frank Fawcett	Webmasters:	Kris Jarusevicius
Newsletter Mailing:	Meg & Frank Zbierski		Tarance Beguhl
Membership:	Frank Fawcett (Temp)	Audit:	OPEN (2)
Club Publicity:	Tarance Beguhl	Scholarship:	OPEN (3)
Business Advertising & Corporate Sponsorship:	Kevin Beguhl, Sheldon Shuper		

2007 Show Committees and Volunteers

Show Chairs:	Kevin Beguhl
	Frank Fawcett
	Kris Jarusevicius
Show Food Chair:	Linda Baglin
Show Print Advertising:	Janice Marzolf
Show Mailings:	Janice Marzolf
Dealer Contracts:	Kevin Beguhl
	Sheldon Shuper
Exhibits:	Sheldon Shuper
Juniors Activities & Spinning Wheel:	OPEN

April Shop Steward Schedule

Wednesday		Saturday*	
April 4	Carl Z.	April 7	Kevin B. / Stan H.
April 11	Ron S.	April 14	Tarance B. / Kevin B.
April 18	Stan H.	April 21	Sam L. / Jim C.
April 25	Carl Z.	April 28	Tarance B. / Kevin B.

Stewards: Please contact Stan Henneman at 363-5011 if you are unable to cover your assigned shift.

*Please note that two Shop Stewards will now be available every Saturday to assist with training new members and keeping the saws operating.

Reminders:

- Glasses are always required while working in the shop.
- Be sure to sign in before using shop equipment.
- Report any problems to the Shop Steward of the day.
- Rock cutting is to be performed by Shop Stewards only.
- Please be sure to clean up your work area and your machine before leaving for the day.

(President's Message, Continued from page 1)

some additions to the rock pile. Numerous members met on a Friday and loaded a large amount of rock donated to the club in trucks and then brought it back and unloaded it at the end of the far rock pile. There is a large amount of rock that was collected on the field trip/excursion that several of the members took to the rhyolite mountain area outside Fallon. On Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th of March, a group of members anxious to get out and start collecting for the year headed off to Nevada. On Saturday, **Les Clark, Frank Fawcett, Joy Fergoda, Kevin Beguhl, Tarance Beguhl** and **Katerina Beguhl** were going to go down to the Austin area, but found it to still be under a blanket of snow. So we headed back to Fallon and the area known as both Black and Red Mountain (depending on whom you talk to). We came well-prepared with a generator, rotohammers, wedges, an electric grinder with dry diamond blades, and hammers, because last time we were there it was hard work, but for very nice material. To our surprise none of these heavy-duty tools were needed due to the fact that the hill had recently been blasted making the availability and collecting great. So between Saturday afternoon with the above-mentioned people, and the addition of **Frank and Meg Zbierski, Kymberly Andrews** and **Rolf Zschonerig** on Sunday, we loaded a lot of extra material in my box truck and brought it back for donation to the club.

So please, come by and check out all the changes.

And we all need to say thank you to **Kris Jarusevicius** for all the hard work she has done and is doing on both the monthly *Matrix* as well as the website. These are two areas that the public sees and, as we hear from every new member, they make a great impression. So I for one would like to make sure that she gets the recognition she deserves. Thank you Kris. (© --Ed.)

Again this month we had a great turnout for the educational meeting and we now have the open area to make these larger gatherings work better. So please, we would like to see you here and when you see **Frank Fawcett** say thank you for the work he is putting into having the educational meetings be such a success.

CLASSES: I would like to hear from people who would be interested in dichroic glass classes and workshops as well as classes and workshops in lost wax silver casting and silver art clay. I ask this because I have purchased a new kiln so that I can do these things for myself, but would like to find out how interested club members might be as well.

I will put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the shop so those interested can let me know. I can also be reached by email at webebeguhl@aol.com or by phone at (916) 459-7556. At the present time, I am still in the research and planning stages of adding these functions to the line-up of workshops and classes. I would be also be interested in anyone who is experienced in these areas who would be able and willing to help out with future classes and workshops.

NOTES AND MENTIONS: *Synder's* is fast approaching, as well as the *Gem Faire*. We are and will be looking for volunteers

for both functions as well as our own Open House event at the clubhouse on May 26th. We will be putting up volunteer sheets on the bulletin board or please call and let me know that you are able to help.

One of our members, **Joy Fergoda**, has had a somewhat serious accident while cleaning gutters. She fell off the ladder and seriously hurt her foot. She has had surgery to have it pinned and wired, so let's all think of her and wish her a speedy recovery. I think we also should tell her to stay off ladders – ha ha!

-- Kevin Beghul
President 2007
Sacramento Mineral Society

New Members for March

Please join us in welcoming **Thelma Lewis** and **Rebecca Posey** to the rolls of the club.

Thelma Lewis was introduced to the club by member, **Sam Lister**. She resides in Sacramento and is interested in lapidary and field trips, but currently has no collection. She is willing to assist with the social aspects of the club.

Hearing about the SMS through attendance at various gem shows over the past four years, **Rebecca Posey** has a collection of loose gemstones ready for mounting and various pieces of estate and unique jewelry. She's specifically interested in getting those stones mounted, but also in mineralogy, geology and field trips. She is willing to assist with the annual show and social events and resides in Sacramento.

Welcome ladies!

Mineral Storage Tip

When storing gem material outdoors, be careful. Many colorful pink and purple minerals are faded by intense sunlight. These include rose quartz, amethyst, lepidolite, and fluorite. Fossil specimens may be destroyed outdoors by wetting, freezing and thawing. Many fossil specimens are clay bases, although there are some specimens that are in sandstone sediment. Common opal, if left in the elements, will craze, crack and fall apart.

Vi Jones, *Skagit Gems* 12/01, via *The Rollin' Rock* 11/06

Paradise Gem and Mineral Society's Show

April 14 & 15, 2007

Saturday 9 - 5 and Sunday 9 - 4

Free admission

Raffle, On-site Gold Panning (weather permitting),
Kid's Zone, Door Prizes, Treasure Hunt, Silent Auction.
Food is available.

Yolo Rock Chronicles

Episode Two: Oat Creek Camel

—By Gilbert Gonzalez

South Fork Oat Creek passes quietly and seasonally through a huge, old cattle ranch that sat on 16,000 acres of an ancient oak forest. Other than the effects of cattle amid sheep grazing, this dry land oak forest is pretty much the same as it has been for centuries. Large areas of beautiful valley oaks, tall Jack pines, blue oaks, Manzanita and holly bushes flank the creek as it descends from the Capay Hills. Water draining from Bob Walker Canyon and Tut Canyon feed the creek as it delicately excavates the mineral specimens buried in the forest soil.

While looking for petrified wood along the rocky bottom of the creek, I was often rewarded with finding some nice fossilized mammal bones. The largest was about six inches long and 2¼ inches thick and it was hollow. The inside of the hollow portion of the bone was lined with drizzly quartz. I found a second piece, a fore leg joint bone. It was a little smaller but it was a totally awesome specimen. It was a really good day, as I also found some very large pieces of petrified wood.

I kept those fossils for about a year, until it was time for my annual pilgrimage to *Snyder's Pow Wow* rock camp out near Valley Springs, California. I believe it was 1998 when I loaded my old Chevy truck with lots of petrified wood specimens, Yolo agate, jasper and that six-inch fossil bone. I packed in all my camping stuff and rain gear and rolled on down the road to the pow wow. It was great weather and the sun was out as I set up my tent and camp site. My two tables were loaded with my rock specimens, a few fossils and a bobcat hide. I also brought two coolers of fresh asparagus – the vendors loved it.

Along came a rockhound by the name of Darrel Shelly and he really liked my fossils. He identified the large six-inch bone that I had found as a camel's bone, and gave me thirty dollars for the fossil. It was a good pow wow that year and I have continued to attend that show each year since. In May of 2006, I was again set up at *Snyder's* with a whole lot of rocks. Buying and selling rocks and visiting with other wild rock vendors, at my table appeared California's world famous geologist Jim Mills. He has a great interest in my petrified wood and he always stops by to talk about petrified wood and California geology. So we visited and told stories for a while before Jim headed off to find that special treasure at the pow wow.

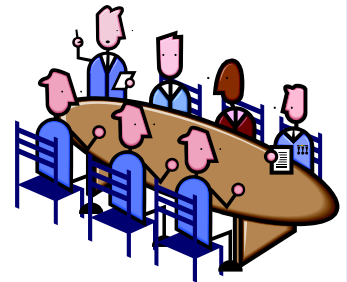
A couple of people stopped by and got a few specimens while I was just chillin' out. Thirty minutes later Jim returns and tells me that there is a dealer selling a camel bone with my name on the label. I said, "What???"

He explained what he found, so I followed him to this other dealer's booth. Wow! There's the camel bone I had sold to Darrel Shelly all those years ago and it still had my information on the label about where I had found it. The dealer explained that he had bought Shelly's collection and was now selling it. I asked how much he wanted for the camel fossil; he said he didn't know, so I offered him ten bucks and he agreed. Alright – the

camel fossil had returned to the person that found it. I was excited about this rare turn of events, so I will have to keep that old camel bone. Though it is only a six-inch piece of fossil bone with drizzly quartz from an extinct California camel that roamed the central valley at the end of the Tertiary period, it is still very special to me.

March Board & Educational Meeting Minutes

Due to the illness of the club Secretary, **Joy Fergoda**, minutes for both the March Board and Educational Meetings were unavailable at press time. We hope to include these minutes in the May edition of *The Matrix*.



A Few Moments in SMS History...

70 Years Ago

June, 1937 – At the board meeting, it was decided to sever all connections with the *Northern California Mineral Society*. A new name was adopted: *Sierra Nevada Mineralogical Society*. That didn't last long as in **October, 1937**, a special meeting was held to vote on the new constitution and club name. The new name of *Sacramento Mineral Society* was voted on and passed. The new constitution was also passed but caused some dissension as four members resigned in protest.

55 Years Ago

August/September, 1952 – The SMS had a display at the California State Fair.

45 Years Ago

October, 1962 – The SMS had 115 members and 6 juniors.

30 Years Ago

June, 1977 – At the educational meeting, Pauline and George Winslow presented a show of their trip to Antarctica. It included tape recordings of the penguins in their rookery along with slides and narrations by both.

October, 1977 – Mini-shows were held at *Country Club Plaza*, *Sunrise Mall* and *Florin Center*. With all the mini-shows and planning for the annual show, they still had time for a field trip to Ebbets Pass. The SMS had 137 members and 11 Juniors.

20 Years Ago

December, 1987 – A review of that year's show revealed that there were 94 (repeat – 94!) exhibit cases and that number was much lower than usual due to a CFMS meeting taking place at the same time. A reminder was printed in *The Matrix* to let the members know that dues were due. Yearly dues at the time were \$7.50 for adults and \$1.00 for juniors.

Birthstones are a fun way to celebrate one's birth. The list of modern birthstones currently accepted in the U.S. was developed in 1912 by the American National Association of Jewelers; a different list is maintained in Germanic countries. The gems now associated with each month have only a slight relationship to ancient beliefs however. Throughout history, different lists have reflected a variety of stones connected to ancient lore and different cultures. This series of articles is an attempt to share some of these old beliefs and will hopefully give us a chance to learn about a few more of the "gems" that catch our fancy. I hope you enjoy it. -Ed.

assist clarity in thinking; it is said to be used to communicate with other minerals, plants and animals, can dispel static electricity, and can heal negativity by stimulating positive thoughts and feelings. It can help the wearer connect to spirit guides and increase cosmic awareness. Some associate clear quartz as a living being that teaches them, empowers them, and speaks and affirms their prayers to the Great Spirit. It is said to contain all the elements of creation and symbolizes a whole being.

Clear quartz has been used for the purposes of detecting the origin of disease quite extensively by many cultures throughout time; the Native American Indians, various African tribal systems, the ancient Egyptians, the Mayans and the Aztecs, Australian Aborigines, the Romans, Scots, Celts, Tibetan Buddhists, Brahmans, and the inhabitants of Atlantis and Lemuria all hold tales of how the crystal was used during the days of the "old ways" for diagnostic healing and to raise the consciousness to an enlightened state.

Quartz is known to have both piezoelectric and pyroelectric properties. Rubbed together briskly, quartz can produce a glowing light that speaks of magic in its imagery. The polarity of a crystal will change when subjected to pressure or heat or when held in the hand – the tip, normally positive and receiving energy, can change and become negative, emitting energy. Crystal rarely, however, shows fluorescence.

Quartz is the US State Gemstone of Georgia and the US State Mineral of Arkansas.

Clear Quartz (Aka, Rock Crystal)

With diamond being the traditional birthstone for the month of April, what other stone would be selected as an alternative but another "colorless" one. Clear quartz, also known as "rock crystal",

is a silicon dioxide that crystallizes in the form of masses, grains, druses and prismatic hexagonal crystals. It has a hardness of about 7 on the Mohs scale, but can be quite brittle.

In times long ago, people believed that rock crystal was a compact form of ice formed by the gods that was eternally frozen; in fact *crystallos* is a Greek word meaning 'ice'. The best rock crystal has the clarity and shimmer of water. Although colorless quartz is relatively common, large flawless specimens are not, which is why crystal balls, used to predict the future since the Middle Ages, are these days are made of glass instead of quartz.

Colorless quartz crystals have also become popular in jewelry due to the popularity of legends about their powers. Many people believe that wearing quartz crystals benefits their health and spiritual well-being, and is said to "bring the energy of the stars to the soul". Its magical characteristics include the ability to bring wisdom and clarity to dreams, serve as a mental energizer and



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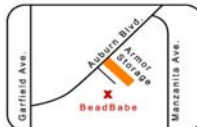
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AFMS www.amfed.org

AFMS Affiliated Members Invited to Attend Workshops

By Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies will offer five week-long workshops during 2007 at the *William Holland School of Lapidary Arts* in Georgia and at the *Wildacres Retreat* in North Carolina. The following schedule has been announced:

Session 1: *Wildacres* – Friday, April 13 to Thursday, April 19

Session 2: *William Holland* – Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 16

Session 3: *Wildacres* – Monday, August 20 to Sunday, August 26

Session 4: *Wildacres* – Monday, Sept. 17 to Sunday, Sept. 23

Session 5: *William Holland* – Sunday, Oct. 14 to Saturday, Oct. 20

The total number of available bedrooms has been expanded during recent seasons and the Southeast Federation is pleased to invite members of other Federations to attend the workshops. Southeast Federation registration started on February 15, and members of other federations may submit registration forms on March 15. The postmark date determines priority in classes with limited enrollment.

The SFMS Workshops offer a wide variety of classes in both lapidary and jewelry-making crafts. In general, students will spend four and a half days in class with an optional half-day off in midweek. Registration is the afternoon before classes start and departure is after breakfast on the day following the last class. Workshops are open from 9 to 5 each day with a break for lunch. Evenings and the free afternoon are devoted to extra curricular activities that may include guest speakers, demonstrations, field trips, and an auction. The week concludes with show-and-tell. Anyone may tail gate when classes are not in session during the last half of the week.

The 2007 Workshops curriculum includes chainmaking, fused glass, jewelry and close-up photography, precious metal clay, beginning and advanced silversmithing, southwest silversmithing, advanced metalsmithing, gem appreciation/identification, beginning and advanced wirecraft, wire sculpture, wire weaving, scrimshaw, opal cutting, cabochon cutting, lost-wax casting, seed beading, mineral identification, raku pottery, beginning stained glass, stained glass using slabs, and origami.

Lodge accommodations including meals are \$310 per person, double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for \$470. There are lab fees and charges for supplies and materials. Details regarding the SFMS Workshop curriculum are published in the *Lodestar*, the official SFMS newsletter. Electronic copies of the *Lodestar*, as well as a four-page brochure containing registration forms and class details, are available on the Internet at: www.amfed.org/sfms.

The SFMS is a friendly federation. We look forward to having members of other federations join us at *Wildacres* or *William Holland* for a week immersed in our hobby or craft.

Federation News

CFMS www.cfmsinc.org



Eastern Federation

Session 1: *Wildacres* – April 20-26. Bob Jones, Senior Editor of *Rock & Gem Magazine* is the guest speaker in residence for the week. Class offerings include cabbing, crystallography, fused glass, ivory identification, micro-mounting, silversmithing, faceting, wax modeling, exhibiting and judging. This session will host the AFMS Judges Training Seminar with participants representing each of our Regional Federations.

Session 2: *Wildacres* – September 10-16. Dr. Steven Chamberlain, retired professor at Syracuse University and Chairman of the *Rochester Mineralogical Symposium* will be the speaker in residence. Classes include cabbing, gem identification, faceting, chain making, fused glass, geology, intarsia, mineral, gemstone and jewelry photography and soapstone carving.

The cost for either session is \$330 per person which includes room and board. Photographs and more information may be obtained at the EFMLS website at www.amfed.org/efmls.

California Federation

The CFMS sponsors two workshops each year. The first was March 18-25 and was held at Zzyzx, a rustic camp near Soda Springs. Cost for the week was \$300 per person with a variety of classes being offered.

The second workshop is held at Camp Paradise in September. Check the CFMS website at www.cfmsinc.org for complete information, costs and registration materials.

Northwest Federation

September 3-9 at *Hancock Field Station*, west of Fossil, Oregon. Cost per person is \$320 which includes the workshop fee and a guided trip to the Fossil Beds. Classes to be offered include lapidary, faceting, silversmithing, intarsia, beading, wire wrapping and judges training.

Complete information can be obtained by visiting the NFMS website at: www.amfed.org/nfms/newslet2.htm. Click on February 2007 to download the newsletter containing the information.

AFMS Newsletter, April 2007

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The President's Corner

By Dick Pankey, CFMS President

Since becoming a card-carrying rockhound in 1990 I have parked my trailer in a cow pasture the first weekend in May, rain or shine. Why? To attend one of the greatest Rockhound events in California (and possibly in the West) -- the Snyder's' Pow Wow in Valley Springs, California.

The first Snyder's' Pow Wow was held in 1975. What was once just a group of rockhounds looking for agate, moss opal, serpentine and jasper has grown into a grand gathering of people who specialize in every aspect of rocks, gems and minerals, and a diverse community event. Over 200 dealers and tailgaters set up in the huge meadow to sell and display. Walk down the aisles and you will find countless non-profit and community groups who participate. Over the years other attractions were added: field trips on the ranch, *Chuggers Lane* (antique engines) and Model A trucks and cars, Native American dancers, mountain men, radio controlled airplanes, and a variety of food. In May the Pow Wow is the place to be. Area gem and mineral clubs make a long weekend of it and camp together in the pasture.

What makes the Snyder's Pow Wow so special is Betty and John Snyder. For 33 years Betty and John have hosted this wonderful weekend. As true hosts they have made everyone who attends, both dealers and guests, feel welcome. You are treated like family. Betty and John not only run the Pow Wow they work at it, also. Betty is at the front tent signing in dealers and campers and making sure that everything is running smoothly. John is out and about taking care of details, servicing the out-houses, emptying garbage, shooing a stray calf back to the other side of the fence. They operate a working cattle ranch but it is obvious that the Pow Wow is their work of love. Through their years of dedication and efforts with the Pow Wow, the Snyders are a great supporter of our hobby, and are a promoter of good stewardship of the earth and of nature.

Through the years many future rockhounds have been introduced to our hobby at the Pow Wow. On Friday morning a caravan of yellow school busses from area schools deliver their students for this special field trip. People return year after year bringing their children and grandchildren. There is a lot of good history and good memories. Ellen Schultz (Past President of CFMS) and her husband Carl would do an evening "Rock Concert" and lead the services in the Old Red Barn on Sunday and playing hymns on Ellen's Triple Octave Shaker Chimes.

The Pow Wow has always been special for me. For the last several years my wife, Betty, and I have been the wagon masters for the combined *Ye Old Timers Mineral Club* and the *North Bay Field Trips* camp. Our groups have volunteered to help direct traffic at the Pow Wow. "Working" at the Pow Wow has given all of us a sense of belonging to this event.

I hope that all of you will have a chance to attend and enjoy this great rockhound event. This year the Snyder's Pow Wow is on May 4th - 6th in Valley Springs, California.

CFMS Newsletter, April 07

The GEM FAIRE

Is coming to Cal Expo
Friday—Sunday, May 18-20

The SMS is again planning to be present at the show to share information about our club to the Sacramento community.

If you're interested in helping to represent the Society at the show, please contact Stan Henneman at 363-5011.

Members are asked to help for four-hour shifts. Free entrance to the show is included.

An Eye on Safety

By Les Clark, SMS Past President

These are two examples of careless packing of your vehicle and how simple mistakes can end up being life threatening.

Fire Extinguishers

It was a gloriously beautiful autumn day and my wife, Millie, and I were on the way to Bodega Bay with our trailer and our dog, Princess, a miniature schnauzer. We had loaded the back of our SUV to the ceiling with everything but the kitchen sink.

Midway between Bodega Bay and Petaluma, the interior of the SUV suddenly filled with a thick, yellow powder, causing difficulty breathing and partially blinding us. We pulled to the side of the road and jumped out, opening all the doors including the back; eventually, most of the dust in the air had escaped.

After 45 minutes or so we had brushed most of the yellow substance out and found the culprit: the now-empty fire extinguisher! The top handle had been knocked off, releasing all the retardant into the SUV's interior.

No wonder it's a fire retardant. Even fires cannot exist – no air!

Emergency Safety Flares

Having been associated with law enforcement for over 30 years, we were constantly reminded of safety hazards in both physical and equipment areas. One of the most mystifying is that of extremely hot fires occurring in the trunks of police vehicles.

An investigation revealed that safety flares being carried loosely in a cardboard box, being jostled against each other, and apparently loosening the scratch-cap in the process, was the cause of the fires in these car trunks.

I now wrap each flare individually for storage in the back of my SUV. Overcautious? Yes, but at 80 years of age, I'm still alive and kicking!

Valley Springs Pow Wow—May 4-6, 2007

By Les Clark, SMS Past President

Wow! The Valley Springs Pow Wow is once again upon us. The Sacramento Mineral Society will once again be there with our display tables and tent.

For rockhounds, this is a special occasion, giving us an opportunity for rockhounding for beautiful dendritic opal and agate. As an added bonus, this is only a short distance from Sacramento, approximately 63 miles. The field trips offered during the Pow Wow is open to all persons over twelve years of age. (Sorry, for safety reasons, there are no exceptions to the age limit.) Come prepared by bringing your own tools (i.e. rock picks, chisels, small sledge hammers), safety glasses, gloves, a wide-brimmed hat, sunburn lotion, long pants and boots. No sandals or shorts are allowed while attending the field trip.

There is a small fee of \$10.00 for the adventure into the field. Sign-up on the bulletin board at the main tent early on Saturday or Sunday; trips start promptly by 8:00 a.m. each day.

Come join us for a great three-day weekend and wander through over 100 dealer booths and see what skills other rockhounds bring to the show. An added bonus is meeting up with old friends and of course, making new ones.



Snyder's Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, May 2: 5:30 p.m. – Chili Cookoff

Thursday, May 3:

Dealer's Day all day—Buy & Sell.

11a.m. to 2 p.m.—Lunch by *Stitchers for Hope*

6:00 p.m. – Dealers/workers Dinner by
Snyders Pow Wow

Friday-Sunday throughout the day: Early Day Gas Engines, Radio controlled airplanes, Native American Dancing, Mountain Men Demonstrations.

Friday, May 4 – Children's Day

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast and Lunch by Methodist Church

8:00 a.m. – Pow Wow Opens. Early Day Gas Engines.

6:00 p.m. – Chicken-in-a-Barrel Dinner by *TriLakes Moose Lodge*

Entertainment by *Sons & Daughters of Jenny Lind*

7:00 p.m.—Auction at *The Ol' Timers Camp*

Saturday, May 5

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast and Lunch by Methodist Church

8:00 a.m. – Field Trip Signups (Age 12 and over)

6:00 p.m. – Beef tri-tip dinner by *San Andreas Lions Club*

Entertainment by *Sons & Daughters of Jenny Lind*

Sunday, May 6

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast and Lunch by Methodist Church

8:00 a.m. – Church, nondenominational, in the Old Red Barn

10:00 a.m. – Vender sign-ups for next year

5:00 p.m. - Powwow closes

Camping: Campsites are "dry". Fees are \$10.00 per night.

Sacramento's Discovery Museum

Sacramento's growth and development are due in large part to the discovery of gold in 1848. The Sacramento Discovery Museum's Gold Rush History Center can help you discover why thousands around the world rushed to Sacramento in the hopes of striking it rich. The museum's Gold Gallery showcases *The Lure of Gold*, an extensive exhibit on the history and science of gold, and features a mineshaft, interactive kiosks, information on gold panning and sluicing techniques, and the modernization of hydraulic and hard rock mining in California. The museum features a large collection of gold specimens.

The museum is located at 101 I Street in Old Sacramento. It's open daily (closed on Mondays in winter) from 10 am to 5 pm and includes many holidays. Admission fee is \$5.00 for adults. The museum also sponsors many special events and activities for the kids throughout the year.

Information obtained from: http://www.thediscovery.org/history/his_gol.html

SMS Calendar

All events held at the SMS clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

April

- 12th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!
- 14th—Saturday SMS Show Meeting #2,
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- 14th—Saturday Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee
- 19th—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Speaker: Lisa Zafran of Teichert Aggregates
"The Aggregate Industry: California's Largest Mining Sector"
- 28th—Saturday Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee

May

- 4th–6th Snyder's Pow Wow
Friday-Sunday Valley Springs, CA
- 10th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!
- 12th—Saturday Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee
- 17th—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Speaker: John Stockwell
"The Formation of Thundereggs"
- 26th—Saturday SMS Open House & Barbecue
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., SMS Club Grounds
Bring your friends to introduce them to the club!

**Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday
from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Spread the word and bring a friend!



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SILVER & GOLD JEWELRY ~ SCREAM BODY JEWELRY ~ BLACKHILLS GOLD
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Thoughts from "The Prez"

I was just thinking that... Man is something like a bicycle. A bicycle maintains its poise and equilibrium only as long as it is going forward toward something.

You have a good bicycle. Your trouble may be that you are trying to keep your balance sitting still with no place to go – no goal, no definite destination. Or perhaps you may have too many goals in view. Did you ever try to ride a bicycle in two directions at the same time? Did you ever try to balance a bicycle while sitting still without going some place? No wonder you may feel shaky at times!

SOLUTION: Get yourself a goal worth striving for. Better yet, get yourself a "project". Decide what YOU want out of a situation. Always have something ahead to look forward to, to work for, to hope for! Look "nostalgia for the future" instead of for the past. These efforts will keep you youthful.

Get interested in some project to help your fellow man. If you can't find one, start one! Not out of some sense of duty, but just because you want to!

THE NOW!

Yesterday died last night! Tomorrow may never be born.
 But if tomorrow today becomes, Today will yesterday join!
 Let's see some NEW projects start in (the) SMS.

-- Zell Almon

Editor's Note: This note of inspiration was written by then-SMS President, Zell Almon, in May of 1987. The message behind the words still applies today. Think about it -- twenty years later, YOU can be the inspiration for the SMS!

The California Poppy

Plants have been used by prospectors searching for minerals since the Middle Ages. Some plants favor soils that contain or have an abundance of a particular element. Many use the desert trumpet as a gold indicator. Plants of the mustard family excel in absorbing uranium and may be of use to the geobotanical prospector who is searching for uranium minerals.

The California poppy is a known indicator of copper, as it requires copper to exist. Some copper compounds are soluble in water, so the presence of poppies does not necessarily indicate that there are copper minerals in the immediate area. Roadside occurrences of poppies should be ignored due to the presence of contaminants from passing cars and trucks. The presence of poppies in the open desert is much more meaningful. Near San Manuel Mine, north of Tuscon, poppies grow in profusion on ground known to be mineralized. On non-mineralized ground, the poppies terminate abruptly, and the fault line can be traced by the poppies. Often, dumps at copper mines are completely covered by poppies. Since gold, silver, and other metals are frequently associated with copper, the presence of the California poppy can be a clue to the possible presence of valuable metal deposits.

The Petrified Log via The Agatizer 09/06

CO-OP

www.coop.5u.com

Field Trips

Due to CO-OP privacy concerns, details of CO-OP sponsored trips can no longer be published in *The Matrix*. Contact the SMS filed trip leader, Dan Brown, at (209) 296-6466 or danbrown666@msn.com for further information and/or revisions. Information on field trips may also be obtained from the "members only" section of the CO-OP website at www.coop.5u.com or by contacting *The Matrix's* editor at sms-editor@pacbell.net.

Reminders: Call the field trip leader in advance to verify details – climate and weather, tools, safety concerns, clothing, vehicle requirements, etc. Wear your name badge and sign in with the leader. All participants must sign a *Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability* form upon arriving at the meeting site and non-CFMS members must show proof of personal liability insurance. Obey the AFMS Code of Ethics, Land Use Policy, and safety rules. Always use common sense.

- April 14-15 **Lovelock, NV** for ammonites. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- April 21 or 28 **Georgetown, CA** for quartz crystals. *Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society*.
- April 28 **Yerington, NV** for Verde antique, pyrite. Minnesota Mine. *Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society*.
- May 5-6 **Valley Springs, CA** during *Snyder's Pow Wow*. Moss and opal agate, serpentine and jasper.
- May 12-18 **Glendive, MT** for fossils, petrified wood, Montana moss agate. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- May 19 **Oakland, CA**. Inside Round Top Volcano—Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. Sign-up required. *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society*.
- June 9 **Babcock Mountain, Taylorsville, CA** for rose quartz. *Paradise Gem & Mineral Society*.
- June 23 & 24 **Hallelujah Junction, CA** for quartz crystals, septon crystals. *Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society*.
- June 30 & July 1 **Elko NV** for fossils, petrified wood, brachiopods, crinoids, horn coral. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- July 7 **16-1 Mine, Forest City, CA** for tour of gold mine, ghost town. *Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society*.
- July 21 & 22 **Edward's Crossing, Yuba River, North San Juan/North Bloomfield area** for gold panning. *Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society*.
- July 28 & 29 **Fairview NV** (east of Fallon) for agates, geodes. Camp at Wonderstone area. *Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society*.
- August 11 **Sutter Gold Mine & Wine Tasting tours**. *Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society*.
- August 20-24 **Virgin Valley, NV** for opal fee digs. *Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Society*.
- August 24-27 **Echo Mt. Stone, CA** for volcanic material. Fee dig. *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society*.
- August 27-31 **Davis Creek/Lassen Creek** for obsidian. *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society*.
- Sept. 1-3 **Austin, NV**. Details to follow. Limited to 26 attendees. *El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society*
- Sept. 1-3 **Cedarville, CA** for petrified wood. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- Sept. 24-Oct. 1 **Southern Utah** for petrified wood. *Fossils for Fun Society*.
- October 6 **San Andreas area** for serpentine and to *Stories In Stone* for a presentation by Russ Shoemaker. *Sun City Lincoln Hills Gem & Mineral Society*.
- October 27 & 28 **Kettleman Hills, CA** for fossils. Limited to 30 attendees. *El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society*.
- Nov. 18-24 **Southern CA** for TBA. *Mother Lode Mineral Society*.

ROCKS, ROCKS, ROCKS

Plus jewelry, lapidary items, opals, gems, minerals, fossils, friendly people and fun.
Open to the public.

Garage Grinders TAIL GATE
April 28, 2007 ~ 10:00 am till 4:00pm
At the historic Rush Ranch, Suisun CA.



Via the CO-OP, 3/18/07

From State Highway 12 in Suisun City, turn south on Grizzly Island Road, opposite the McDonalds and Sunset Shopping Center. Rush Ranch is located approximately two miles from Highway 12. A large sign is located along the road to the right, turn down the gravel lane. Visitors will cross over one bridge. If you get to a second bridge, turn around.

For more information contact: Scott Paradis (707) 447-5271, wizo@pacbell.net

Upcoming Shows & Events

- April 6-8 **San Mateo, CA.** *International Gem & Jewelry Show.* San Mateo County Convention Center. (301) 294-1640. info@intergem.com; www.intergem.com.
- April 7 **Porterville, CA.** *Porterville Area Gem & Mineral Society.* Earth Science Play Day: hosting the Diamond Pacific Tool Corporation (see and use new tools, demos, etc.) 248 N. Kessing St. rdmilner@verizon.net, www.pagms.org. Rob Milner, (559) 359-6174.
- April 7-29 **San Francisco, CA.** *Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts 10th Annual Masters Symposium.* Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts, 760 Market Street, Suite 900. (415) 391-4179. info@revereacademy.com; www.revereacademy.com.
- April 14-15 **Paradise, CA.** *Paradise Gem & Mineral Club's "Paradise of Gems".* Veteran's Memorial Hall, Skyway and Elliott. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. Free admission. Gold panning, silent auction, treasure hunt. Shirley Thompson, (530) 872-1846, email: shirley1846@comcast.net. Website: <http://goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC/>.
- April 14-15 **Gresham, OR.** *Mount Hood Rock Club's Gem & Craft Show.* Mount Hood Community College Gymnasium, 26000 SE Stark. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Gail Bumala, (503) 637-5165, boomart@cascadeaccess.com.
- April 14-15 **Mariposa, CA.** *Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club.* Mariposa County Fairgrounds. Hours: 10-5 both days. Peggy Ronning (209) 742-7625. Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net.
- April 14-15 **San Jose, CA.** *Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd. Hours: 10-5 both days. Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584, email: info@scvgms.org. Club website: www.scvgms.org.
- April 28-29 **Santa Cruz, CA.** *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.* Civic Auditorium, Center and Church Streets. Hours 10-5 both days. Eleanor & Hubert Drake (408) 831-80876. Email: hmdrake@pacbell.net.
- May 4-6 **Valley Springs, CA.** *Snyder's Valley Springs Pow Wow.* 1290 Paloma Road, Valley Springs. Gems, minerals, jewelry, crafts, field trips, Native American dancing, mountain men demonstrations, radio controlled airplanes, antique steam engines. Camping available for a small fee (check in at the registration tent). Betty (209) 772-1265 or Diana (209) 772-1777. Email: snyderspowwow@sbcglobal.net. Website: www.valleyspringspowwow.com.
- May 4-6 **Bishop, CA.** *Eastern Sierra Rock & Gem Show.* Bishop Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri. 5-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-3. Francis Pedneau, (760) 876-4319, franceem@qnet.com.
- May 5-6 **Anaheim, CA.** *Searchers Gem & Mineral Society.* Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30. www.searchersrocks.org. Betty Nelson, (714) 530-1365, betty@azteche.com.
- May 12-13 **Reno, NV.** *Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems".* Reno Livestock Events Center, Exhibit Hall. 1350 N. Wells Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. (775) 356-8820. Website: www.renorockclub.com.
- May 18-20 **Anderson, CA.** *Superior California Gem & Mineral Association, Inc.* Shasta County Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri.-Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Bill Seward, (530) 365-8641.
- May 18-20 **Sacramento, CA.** *Gem Faire.* Cal Expo, Bldgs. A & B, 1600 Exhibition Blvd. Hours: Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. (503) 252-8300. Info@gemfaire.com, www.gemfaire.com.
- May 26-27 **Virgin Valley, NV.** *Desert Treasures.* Opal Negra Mine Millsite. Hours: 10-5. Scott Ryals, (800) 803-7601. gemshow@thegemdealer.com, www.thegemdealer.com.
- June 2-3 **Glendora, CA.** *Glendora Gems.* 859 E. Sierra Madre. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638, email: Ybidwell2@aol.com.
- June 2-3 **La Habra, CA.** *North Orange County G3em & Mineral Society.* La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours 9-5 both days. Don Warthen.
- June 5-10 **Roswell, NM.** *AFMS/RMFMS Show and Convention "Gems of Enchantment" hosted by the Chaparral Rockhounds.* Convention: June 5-10 at Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites of Roswell, 2000 N. Main Street, Roswell, New Mexico 88201, (505) 622-6430, fax (505) 623-7631. Show: June 7-10, Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 North Main Street, Roswell.
- June 15-17  **Lancaster CA.** *CFMS Show and Convention* hosted by the *Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club.* Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Hours: 9-5 daily. Email: pgmc@antelecom.net.
- October 13-14 **Grass Valley, CA.** *Nevada Country Gem & Mineral Society's "Earth's Treasures".* Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road. Hours: 10-5 both days. Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752.
- Nov. 3-4 **Concord, CA.** *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society.* Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road. Clayton Fair Shopping Center. Hours: 10-5 both days. Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287.
- Nov. 10-11 **Yuba City, CA.** *Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society's "Festival of Gems".* Grace Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Avenue. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752.



Happy
Easter!!



Come and visit the clubhouse and
shop and find your one-of-a-kind
"Easter Eggs" in the SMS rock piles!

Clubhouse open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 2 pm

sms

Sacramento Mineral Society
P.O. Box 160544
Sacramento, CA 95816

The Matrix

April 2007

