



# The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the  
Sacramento Mineral Society  
Sacramento, California

# SMS

August 2007  
Volume 67, No. 8

## The Untold Worldwide Addiction

The world is dealing with many addictions and the problems and hardships that accompany them. But there is one addiction that seems to have quietly grown to worldwide and possibly epidemic proportions with little or no fanfare or concern. Before I get into the addiction, let me discuss some of the differences between this addictive substance and most of the other addictive substances we so often hear about.

When you hear talk of addictions your mind probably jumps directly to substances like cocaine, methadone, crank, heroine, ox cotton, or any one of numerous drugs. Or maybe you think of the most commonly talked about addiction, alcoholism. These addictions get a lot of publicity due to the destructive affects that they have on not only the body, but to other people that come in contact with the addicted party by being a family member or by being a victim of a drug-related crime. I won't even go into the financial aspect of all these addictions, but we all know they have a major drain on economies around the world.

Due to all this negativity, it is not surprising that when you have an addiction that goes back in time as far as we can research, has little or no adverse side affects, contributes little or nothing to the crime rate (unlike other addictions that are destructive to the body or are at least unhealthy), this one has an arguable medical benefit, and this addiction may possibly contribute to many economies throughout the world in numerous ways.

So you would think that more people would be promoting this addiction. That is not the case however, because when people do disclose that they have this addiction they are still looked at as being odd, strange, or just plain weird. For this reason many people (especially in high society areas) make excuses for their addiction or classify it differently to avoid being considered odd. Many people may be in total denial about their addiction; or as with any addiction, make excuses as to why they just have to have their "fix".

I am familiar with this addiction because I am affected by it; further, I can be accused of not only getting my wife hooked on this drug, but also both of my kids. People may ask how I could do this to my family. Well, I did it because in order for them to see and understand this addiction from

*(Continued on page 14)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Nominating Committee Recruitment

Its time for us to start thinking about who will be our governing board for 2008. Not only do we need to determine who our new board members will be, but we also need to ascertain those members who would be willing to chair committees and/or head various areas of club activity. But before we can do that, we must create a Nominating Committee to help us establish a list of the members willing to be involved.

The club is currently seeking three individuals to form the Nominating Committee and we hope to have this committee in place by September. **Joy Fergoda** has expressed a willingness to participate, so we need at least two others to join her. It would be especially great if at least one of those people was a general member and not already sitting on the 2007 board.

The job is short-term and with quick work, the bulk of the assignment could be complete in a few months. Essentially, it simply involves talking to members to ask a few questions and making a few notes to ultimately create a roster of candidates for Board positions and a list of individuals the 2008 president can consider in making committee appointments. The goal is for the Nominating Committee to present a full roster of interested individuals to the Board by early November at the latest.

If you are interested in helping out, please let a current Board member know as soon as possible or send a note to the editor at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net). It would also be great if you could attend the August Business Meeting on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, to let your interest be known.

Page 2	August Shop Steward Schedule
Page 3	President's Message November Show Update SMS Open House/BBQ/Tailgate Event
Page 4	July Business Meeting
Page 5	Amber—"Alternative" Birthstone
Page 6-7	Federation News:
Page 8	Molecular Expressions—Peridot SMS Roster Updates
Page 9	July Educational Meeting The Ringing Rocks
Page 10	Claude Huber: "Favorite Collecting Sites in Northern California"
Page 12	Join in the Search for the Sun(stone) Rocks of the Klamath
Page 13	What is Obsidian? SMS Calendar
Page 14	SMS Bulletin Board Know Your Rocks
Page 15	Ho-Ho-Huh???? SMS New Members
Page 16	CO-OP / Field Trips
Page 17	Shows & Events



**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:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.
- Educational Meeting:  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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

**2007 Board Members**

- President: Kevin Beguhl (916) 459-7556 [webebeguhl@aol.com](mailto:webebeguhl@aol.com)
- Vice President: Frank Fawcett (916) 967-5809 [ffhawcett@aol.com](mailto:ffhawcett@aol.com)
- Secretary: Joy Fergoda (530) 756-5859 [jafergoda@yahoo.com](mailto:jafergoda@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer: Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153
- Federation Directors: Dan Brown (209) 296-6466 [danbrown666@msn.com](mailto:danbrown666@msn.com)  
Alma DeShazer (209) 296-6466 [bigguy3@volcano.net](mailto:bigguy3@volcano.net)
- Editor: Kris Jarusevicius (916) 451-4806 [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net)
- Past President: Les Clark (916) 421-4752
- Directors 2006-2007: Linda Baglin (916) 685-8132 [LollieLinda@yahoo.com](mailto:LollieLinda@yahoo.com)  
Dixie Christenson (916) 455-0421 [gildedcat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gildedcat@sbcglobal.net)  
Lana Paulhamus (916) 372-5117
- Directors 2007-2008: Carl Zimmerman (916) 739-1279 [cz4744@netzero.net](mailto:cz4744@netzero.net)  
Tarance Beguhl (916) 519-2590 [t1beagle@aol.com](mailto:t1beagle@aol.com)

**Committees and Chairs**

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

**August Shop Steward Schedule**

Wednesday		Saturday	
Aug. 1	Carl Z.	Aug. 4	Sam L.
Aug. 8	Ron S.	Aug. 11	Tarance B.
Aug. 15	Stan H.	Aug. 18	OPEN HOUSE
Aug. 22	Ron S. or Stan H.	Aug. 25	Craig M.
Aug. 29	Craig M.		

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

**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

Well hello! It is nice to see the shop filling up again on work days. That being said, we as a club need to work with our Board of Directors to have the club that is what we all want to have, with a shop and clubhouse we are able to come and work in; and also be the club that everyone else wants to either join or emulate. I think in the overall scheme of things we are close to being there, but there are still some hiccups that pop up and need to be addressed.

When these things need to be addressed we as a board, and especially myself, would like to see (and we truly NEED) your participation in the process of decision making. To do this we need as many of the general members that would like to, and are able to, attend at least the next few business meetings. This is necessary because we as a board are discussing and working on ways to make the cost of participation more competitive and attractive. To help encourage and inspire, we are also trying to work out a system of rewards for member participation in our major functions. *So please come join us on the second Thursday of each month and share your ideas to help make our great club even better.*

Changing tracks, I see new members having a blast and enjoying all we have to offer, as well as established members staying involved. That is great. I personally would like to be able to do more with the rocks, but right now time is limited so I will do all I can; including making the time to help members with projects on at least two Saturdays a month until further notice.

Well this is short this month, but I want to go cut some rocks. Also, be sure to read this month's article on addiction and please give me your feedback!

Go have fun with rocks and just relax.

Kevin Beguhl  
2007 President, SMS

## November Show Update

The three 2007 SMS Show Co-chairs – **Kevin Beguhl**, **Frank Fawcett**, and **Kris Jarusevicius** – have met to begin planning for our November show. It's time for the serious plans to move forward with goals and dates being set, and that means we need the membership's help.

This year's *Golden Harvest of Gems, Jewelry and Minerals* is set for the November 9-11 at the *Scottish Rite Center* in Sacramento. We're expanding over previous years with the addition of more space that will allow more dealers and give us an area for presentations and speakers for our visitors throughout the weekend. Layout and planning will focus on making areas of interest for our guests, and hopefully inspire them to roam the various areas of the show. We also plan to bring back an expanded rock auction, have a children's activity area, and numerous display cases.

**Sheldon Shuper** is already attempting to recruit members willing to exhibit; and to help more first-timers, the club will present a talk on tips for setting up a good case at our September Educational Meeting. **Dixie Christenson** and a team of a few willing helpers have already begun the task of cleaning up the club cases in order to have them ready to show off our members' creations. And **Frank Fawcett** is seeking out interesting speakers and presenters for special events during the weekend.

We will be calling upon members to assist with other planning and preparations shortly; but if there is a particular area you feel your talents could assist in, please don't hesitate to contact us before we contact you! We especially need volunteers who are good with kids to help out in a children's activities area throughout the weekend, but especially on Friday – Kid's Day.

Be a part of the *Sacramento Mineral Society's* biggest event of the year – volunteer!

To make your willingness known, please contact any Board member or drop an email to the editor at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net).

## SMS Open House/BBQ/Tailgate Event

It's time again to show off our club and enjoy a little socializing with our semi-annual Open House/BBQ/Tailgate event. Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, is the day to come and visit with other members, visitors, and local vendors, help introduce guests to our offerings, and enjoy a BBQ lunch on the SMS grounds. Our last Open House event this past May brought in over 100 visitors to our club and we're hoping to be even more successful this time.

In addition to our own Open House/BBQ, we will also be hosting the CO-OP quarterly meeting that day, so we'll surely have the opportunity to socialize with rockhounds from other northern California clubs. Is there anything that rockhounds enjoy more???

The Open House begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 3:00 p.m. A barbeque lunch, including burgers or dogs, a variety of salads, chips, desserts and a beverage, will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the great deal price of only \$4.00 per person. The CO-OP will take over the clubhouse at 1:30 p.m. for their quarterly meeting. Throughout the day, all our visitors can

enjoy the wares offered by local dealers, crafters and rockhounds. The clubhouse will also be open to all attendees before the CO-OP meeting for a chance to view our displays or visit the library.

If you're interested in setting up a booth at the event, please contact **Kevin Beguhl** at (916) 459-7556 to reserve your space. A limited number of tables will be available, but please try to bring your own. There is no charge for setting up a booth, but we do ask that you be affiliated with a CFMS club.

All members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert for the lunch. If you're not sure what to bring, please contact **Tarance Beguhl** at (916) 519-2590 for suggestions or see the list of needs on the whiteboard in the clubhouse. (If you happen to be at the clubhouse, please note on the whiteboard what you are bringing.) And if you're able to assist with set-up, take-down, food service, etc. please contact Tarance as soon as possible to let him know. It takes the help of many SMS members to make these events successful. All monies generated from the event go toward the club's general operating fund.

## Business Meeting Minutes—July 12, 2007

The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. with nine Board members and one general member present

**Kevin Beguhl** has obtained the necessary information for a clubhouse phone. The club's tax ID number is needed before an appointment can be made for the install.

We currently have 22 dealers committed with at least partial payment for the November show, and an additional five or six who have indicated they plan to be there. Additional follow-up calls will be made to the dealers as a reminder and the committee may consider contacting some new dealers that were never able to get into our show before. The three show chairs will meet to discuss the status of contracts and other show details, and will begin planning on-going monthly meetings to get the general membership involved. It is expected that we will once again hold general show meetings an hour before each Educational Meeting beginning in August.

**Sheldon Shuper** distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. Discussion was had regarding the current perspective of our club funds, being that we show a negative for the majority of the year and "make it up" after we have our show in November. The group will discuss the matter further including considering a different structure for the club funds so that we have a more realistic on-going picture of our status.

Questions arose as to why the SMS is actually a member of the CFMS. Is it necessary? What are the benefits that we get in exchange for the annual dues we pay each year? The majority felt that the CFMS should be putting forth more effort into lobbying about issues as they relate to our hobby of rockhounding, and that efforts they currently put forth is miniscule. Further discussion will be had in the future.

Kevin shared parts of a letter received from a new member citing a complaint within the shop functions. Discussion was had over the fact that standardization of new member information and training in the shop needs to be brought to the forefront and provided consistently by all stewards.

Nine new members were approved for membership; this included those voted in by proxy in June when we were unable to have a Business meeting due to lack of a quorum being present.

**Dan Brown** shared details of the field trip planned for Labor Day weekend to search for sunstone near Plush, Oregon. Information has been provided to the CO-OP for distribution. It was pointed out that *The Travel Channel* features a segment on searching for sunstones at a nearby location on an episode of "Find Cash and Treasures". We might be able to find a copy of that episode to share with members before the trip.

The group was reminded that we will be hosting the CO-OP quarterly meeting in August on the day of our Open House event. The date set is Saturday, August 18. As always, help is needed with set-up, tear-down, food prep, etc. **Tarance Beguhl** will again coordinate volunteers. The Open House will be from 10-3; the meal price will be raised to \$4.00 per person with food served from 10:30-1. The clubhouse building will be closed to all

but those attending the CO-OP meeting at 1:30 p.m. (Guests will still be able to enjoy the vendors during this time.)

Dan expressed thoughts about the need for a Assistant Field Trip Chair and a two-year term for it and the club's Field Trip Chair position. After discussions, it was MSA that an Assistant Field Trip Leader be appointed by the president. A new Field Trip Chair and the Assistant Chair will be appointed in opposite years in order for their terms to overlap. All feel this will allow for the planning of field trips earlier so the CO-OP can post the plans early each year. The Assistant Chair will automatically move into the Chair position at the end of the term. A call for volunteers will go out at the Educational Meeting. Its noted that the club's by-laws will need to be amended to reflect the new position and appointment guidelines.

Homework assignment for board members: Kevin requested the group begin brainstorming for ways we can acknowledge those individual club members who help out the club throughout the year and bring those ideas back to the next Business meeting. Some ideas include awards or benefits (a free shop day for example). He would also like to reward those who contribute content for the club newsletter.

**Carl Zimmerman** is asking for donations of members' "creations" to include in a clubhouse display that can be taken to such events as *Gem Faire*. Showing off some of our work (cabs, finished jewelry, carved items, etc.) is an attractive incentive to potential new members. Those interested in sharing something, even if only on a temporary basis, should contact Carl.

Sheldon would like to find ways to inspire members to set up displays for the club show in November; his goal is to attempt to have 40-50 cases on display this year. We will attempt to present a talk about display set-up for our September Educational Meeting topic. **Dixie Christenson** suggested the name of Jack Williamson as a possible speaker on the topic.

General discussion was had about the need to obtain new wheels for the *Genies*.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris J. (*Scribe de jour*) on behalf of Joy Fergoda

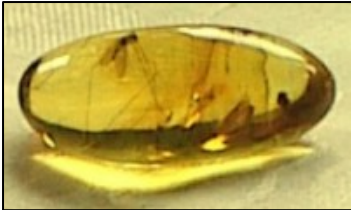
### Business Meeting Agenda for August 9, 2007

Committee Reports – Treasurer's Report, CFMS, Membership, Field Trip, Correspondence, Shop, Show

#### Agenda Items

- Volunteering & Benefits/Awards (The "homework assignment" from July was to brainstorm for ways to acknowledge members who help the club and contribute to *The Matrix*.)
- *Genie* Wheel Replacement
- Continuing discussion re: club's CFMS membership
- Promoting presentation of display cases by club members
- Open House/BBQ/Tailgate Planning

*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.*



## Amber

Amber has fascinated man for thousands of years. Its golden transparency gives it a quality which even diamonds do not share. For the artisan it provides a remarkable medium

to work with and create some of the most beautiful objects for us to enjoy. For the scientist it provides a glimpse into the past, a window into history.

Amber is the fossilized resin of ancient trees. The aromatic resin once oozed from trees and trapped debris such as insects, seeds, leaves, and bird feathers. Most of the world's true amber ranges between 30 to 90 million years of age. Baltic amber is 40-60 million years old and was held dear by many ancient cultures, treasured both for protective and decorative qualities. In modern times, the movie *Jurassic Park* caused a surge of interest in the stone. However, amber has long commanded the hearts and minds of humans – in fact, it has commanded whole economies.

Amber is not, as is commonly thought, pine sap; rather, amber is the vascular tissue of the trees, exuded either during injury or radical climate change. The collective name used for these amber-producing trees is *Pinus succinifera*, and they produced a large secretion of resin. Most known deposits come from tree species which are now extinct, however scholars have recently named three species of still-growing trees as candidates for future production.

Amber is one of the few precious substances on earth we consider a gem which is not of mineral origin; diamonds and jet (both derived from various stages of coal), are the only other two gems of vegetative origin. The valuation of any gemstone is tied directly to its rarity. The level of succinite contained in amber determines its quality. Baltic amber contains the highest level of succinic acid, thus Baltic amber is the most highly valued.

Amber increases in value with the rarity and perfection of entrapped objects. Common inclusions are plant materials such as oak leaf remnants or tiny hairs from oak buds, pollens, spores, leaves, twigs and most famously of all – insects. Complete insect specimens are rare and command top price. At least 214 plant species have been identified through analysis of amber. Its study has yielded priceless data about the ancient world.

The color range is extremely varied, ranging from near white (osseous) through all shades of yellow, brown, and red. In recent years, green amber has grown in popularity. The hue is accepted

by amber associates as simply a variation of color enhancement. Just as many other gems are treated and stabilized to bring out luster and shine, similar treatments are used to enhance green amber. Natural green amber is a mix of clear amber and a pale greenish-yellow tone. Generally it contains many inclusions of plant and earth debris. This type of amber is sometimes referred to as "earth amber". You'll know this amber by its distinct characteristics of dark inclusions and yellow-green color. It does NOT look anything like green amber on the market today.

The claim of strong fluorescence in amber is often exaggerated. Generally, the fluorescence is weak and photographs which show glowing pieces of amber are usually achieved with exposure times in excess of 2 minutes under strong UV lamps—quite misleading.

Amber is very soft, between 2½-3 on the *Mohs* scale, and can be scratched easily. Bracelets and rings with amber cabochons should be worn with care to prevent marring the stone. Much of the amber used in commercial jewelry is reconstituted, which makes it harder and less prone to scratching. Reconstituted and processed amber usually doesn't have natural inclusions.

The chemical structure of Amber is not consistent, not even within a single fragment, let alone a single deposit. Consequently numerous chemical formulas have been attributed to it. The reason for this wide variation is simply because amber is not a true mineral, it is an organic plastic with variable mixtures.

There are many tests that can be performed to determine if a piece is natural or man-made. Of these, only the flotation test is recommended for the novice. Use a saturated solution of regular table salt and water and place the piece of amber in the mixture. If it floats, it's amber. If it sinks it's man-made (some natural copals will also sink and you would need to make more scientific tests to make a determination).

The desire for amber is nothing new. Amber artifacts dating back to the Paleolithic Era (c. 12,000 BC) have been found in what is now Germany and Denmark. Evidence of amber jewelry workshops have been discovered by archeologists tied to the Neolithic period. It is during this time that caches of amber are also found embedded beneath the foundations of houses—possibly intended to ensure the good fortune of the occupants. The Emperor Nero was a great connoisseur of amber. Homer wrote about amber in the *Odyssey*. Aristotle and Plato also mentioned amber, and Pliny the Elder explained its origins indicating that, "...a small, single piece of amber sculpture was worth more than a healthy slave." Another ancient writer, Nicias, said that, "amber is the juice or essence of the setting sun congealed in the sea and cast up on the shore." Amber artifacts have also been found in Mycenaean shaft graves (Greece), in Babylonia and Egypt (Tutenkhamen's tomb) and even in Brighton, UK, where a particularly famous amber cup from a burial mound is housed.

In early Chinese references going back to AD 92, it was believed that amber was the soul of a tiger which had died and passed into the earth. Tibetans have perhaps the most beautiful

*(Continued on page 11)*

AFMS [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

Federation News

CFMS [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

## Report of the CFMS President to the AFMS, June 2007

—By Dick Pankey, CFMS President

Declining membership continues to challenge the CFMS as a Federation just as it is a challenge for our member societies. Our roster now stands at 120 societies. This past year one club disbanded, two clubs withdrew, and four delinquent clubs were removed from the roster. But there is also good news; we had three societies join and one club is rejoining the Federation.

To address this important issue of membership we formed an ad hoc Membership Committee to bring focus to membership issues, share ideas and successes, how they were accomplished, what works, what doesn't, and to help where we can. Currently we have nine clubs with less than 20 members, but there are 27 clubs with over 100 members. But these numbers do not tell the whole story. Our societies are strong, active and involved. Our strength lies with our many mid-size clubs. While the number of clubs trend line may be declining, most of our societies are stable and growing. We plan (hope) for better numbers next year. The indicators are promising.

Twenty-one years ago Isabella and Bill Burns started our Earth Science Studies at the Desert Studies Center on Zzyzx Rd. near Baker, CA, better known simply as Zzyzx. The program has expanded to Camp Paradise in northern California and we now offer three one-week sessions. We feature the teaching of disciplines such as lapidary (cabochons), bead making and stringing, wire art, silver smiting, silver and gold casting, wax art, soft and hard stone carving, gem tree art, glass fusing, copper enameling, and faceting. Planning has now started on developing a junior program.

Our Scholarship fund is strong and growing due to the generosity of our societies. This year we will be presenting two \$2000 scholarships. Our scholarship Honorees are Bonjou Paphatsarang and George A. Wheeldon. They will each select a school and help with the selection of the student. We have also selected an AFMS Scholarship Honoree who will be announced later and honored at our Awards Banquet this June along with the CFMS scholarship honorees and students.

Following the show and meetings in Roswell, the CFMS contingent of officers, committee members, exhibitors, competitors and attendees will hit the road for a quick return trip Lancaster, California for the California Federation's Show and Convention. The Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club will host the event and celebrate their 60th anniversary on June 15 - 17.

Don't forget to display your rockhound stickers on your cars and trucks and use the little rockhound sticker when writing to your elected officials and government agencies.

*Given at the AFMS Annual Meeting in Roswell, NM in June 2007  
Via CFMS Newsletter, 08/08*

Juniors Activities:

### FRA Youth Poster Contest 2007

—By Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

David Rich contacted me recently with a very neat idea! His club, the *Summit Lapidary Club* from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies, is sponsoring a poster contest, which they're opening up to any and all kids who belong to the *Future Rockhounds of America (FRA)* program nationwide, regardless of which regional federation they're in. In addition, they welcome entries from any school teachers who would like to do this as a class project. So if you're utilizing the FRA program within your club, I encourage you to work with your kids to design posters and send them to David. Here are the details:

**Theme: "Gemstones of the World."**—Prepare a poster illustrating one or more gemstones or minerals that interest you, from anywhere in the world.

**Eligibility:** 1st through 12th grade. Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons awarded for 1st through 4th place, with the 1st place winner also receiving a prize.

#### Contest Rules:

- All entries must be presented on paper 12 inches by 18 inches.
- Include name, address, age, and school grade of participant on back of entry.
- Artwork can be in pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artists' medium.
- No three-dimensional posters accepted.
- The title may be on the front or the back.
- List names of the gems and/or minerals and why you chose them.
- All entries become the property of the Summit Lapidary Club.

**Scale of Points:** Originality & Art Work: 30 points; Design: 25 points; Title: 25 points; Listing of Gems and/or Minerals & Reason Chosen: 20 points.

#### Deadlines & Contacts:

- Entries must be postmarked by October 1, 2007.
- Send to: David Rich, 1166 Broadview Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278.
- Winners will be displayed and prizes and ribbons awarded at the *Fall Gemboree* on October 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- For questions, please call the contest chairman, David Rich at (330) 630-9625, or [drich@lapidaryclubofohio.org](mailto:drich@lapidaryclubofohio.org).

I encourage every club with juniors who have been taking part in the AFMS/FRA program to jump in and send in entries from their pebble pups and junior members. It sounds like David and the good folks of the *Summit Lapidary Club* have come up with a great way for kids to express their interest in their favorite gems and minerals while as always having fun!

Via CFMS Newsletter, 08/08

## Safety

### Summer Safety

—By Chuck McKie, 2007 CFMS Safety Chairman

School's out and we are ready to hit the beaches, deserts, and mountains to enjoy our rockhounding experiences. But to enjoy it we must do it safely. So please use the following guidelines from the *American Red Cross*.

#### Heat-Related Illness – Do You Know What to Do?

Heat-related illnesses, such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke, can be problems for people enjoying outdoor activities in the hot summer months. Those most susceptible to heat related illnesses are children, the elderly, and people working or exercising in a hot environment. A heat-related illness occurs when the body is not able to regulate and control its temperature. As the air temperature rises, your body stays cool by letting heat escape through the skin and by evaporating sweat (perspiration). On hot, humid days, the evaporation of sweat is slowed by the increased moisture in the air. When the body isn't cooled properly, your body temperature rises, and you may become ill. If left untreated, a heat-related illness can lead to serious complications, even death. However, most heat-related illnesses can be prevented.

#### What are heat cramps?

Heat cramps are the least severe and often are the first signals that the body is having trouble with the heat. Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms that result from overheating. They usually occur in the legs and abdomen.

#### How do I give care for heat cramps?

To care for heat cramps, have the person rest in a cool place. Give them cool water or a commercial sports drink. Usually, rest and fluids are all the person will need to recover. Lightly stretch the muscle and gently massage the area. Do not give the person salt tablets or salt water. They can make the situation worse.

#### What is heat exhaustion?

Heat exhaustion is a heat-related illness that can develop after exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. It typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a warm, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating and the sweat does not evaporate as it should.

#### Know the symptoms...

- Cool, moist, pale, ashen or flushed skin
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Weakness or exhaustion
- Heavy sweating

#### What should I do if I think I have heat exhaustion?

If you think you have heat exhaustion, get out of the heat quickly. Rest in a cool, shady place and drink small amounts of cool water or other replenishing fluids. Loosen or remove clothing and apply wet cloths. Have someone call 9-1-1 or the local

emergency number if your condition does not improve, you are unable to drink water, or you start vomiting. If heat exhaustion is not treated it can progress to a worse condition—heat stroke.

#### What is heat stroke?

Heat stroke is the least common, but most severe heat-related illness. It results from the total failure of the body's heat regulation system. This occurs when the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating system fails, and the body cannot cool down. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. It can cause permanent disability or even death.

#### Know the symptoms...

- Red skin that can either be dry or moist
- Changes in consciousness
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Rapid, shallow breathing

#### What should I do if I think someone has heat stroke?

Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition. If you think someone might have heatstroke, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number right away. Move the person to a cool, shady place. Loosen or remove any unnecessary clothing and help cool the person down. Apply wet cloths and fan the person. If the person is conscious, give them small amounts of cool water to drink (about 4 ounces every 15 minutes). Refusing water, vomiting and changes in consciousness mean that the person's condition is getting worse. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately, if you haven't already done so.

#### How can I prevent heat illness?

When the heat index is high (a measurement of how hot it feels when relative humidity is combined with the effects of the air temperature), stay indoors in air-conditioned areas whenever possible. If you must go outside, take the following precautions:

- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a hat or using an umbrella.
- Frequently apply sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or more.
- Drink plenty of water before starting an outdoor activity. Drink extra water all day. Avoid beverages that contain caffeine or alcohol.
- Schedule vigorous outdoor activities for cooler times of the day--before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.
- During outdoor activities, take frequent breaks. Drink water or other fluids every 15 to 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- If you have a chronic medical problem, ask your doctor about how to deal with the heat, about drinking extra fluids, and about your medicines.

#### What should I do after having heat exhaustion or heatstroke?

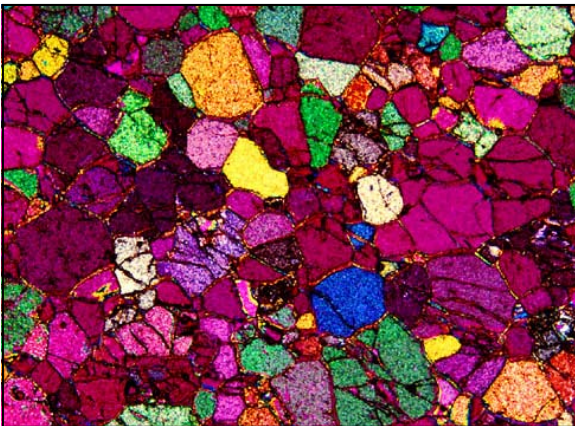
Do not resume activities the same day. Be especially careful not to exercise too hard, and avoid going outside in hot weather if possible. Ask your doctor to tell you when it is safe to return to your normal activities.

Via CFMS Newsletter, 08/08

## Molecular Expressions – August Birthstone

An interesting website called Molecular Expressions literally gets to the core of gemstone study. The site features photo galleries that explore the fascinating world of microscopy – photographs taken through an optical microscope. Maintained by Florida State University in collaboration with Optical Microscopy at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the site displays a series of images entitled The Birthstone Collection containing digital images made from photomicrographs of mineral-thin sections that contain the select gems. Some images display the surface of impure and uncut stones, while others display crystallites formed from dissolved minerals.

Use of images and information contained in this series of articles has been granted by the website's owners. Many of the images in the collection were made from crude specimens and the team is in search of better specimens to examine and photograph. If you have such samples you feel they might be interested in and would like to see them photographed, please visit the website and follow the link to send them an email with your offering. You may visit their website directly by going to: <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/birthstones/index.html>.



### Peridot

Peridot (pronounced pair-a-doe), or precious olivine, is a volcanic gemstone that was once treasured by native Hawaiians as the tears of the Goddess-of-Fire, Pele. The transparent green stone is a variety of the mineral olivine, a silicate found in many igneous rocks and a major constituent of the Earth's upper mantle. The crystal system is orthorhombic with a hardness slightly less than quartz. Small crystallites of peridot are often found in the basalt rocks created by volcanoes and have been found in iron-nickel meteorites called pallasites. Some specimens of extraterrestrial peridot have even been faceted and set into jewelry.

The word peridot is thought to be derived from the French word *peridot*, which means unclear, probably because of the cloudy appearance of large stones, but could also have been taken from the Arabic word *faridat* which means gem. In either case, peridot has been mined as a gemstone for more

than four thousand years and is mentioned in the Bible under the Hebrew name of *pitdah*.

In ancient Egypt, peridot was mined on an island called Zeberget. Mining was done at night because legend said that peridot could not be easily seen during the day, but its pale, iridescent green was easily illuminated by lamplight at night. It was for this characteristic that the Romans called peridot the "evening emerald". Peridot later was also often used to decorate medieval churches, and was probably carried back to Europe by the Crusaders. Large peridots, more than 200 carats in size, adorn the shrine of the Three Magi at the Cologne Cathedral.

Peridot was considered to have the power to drive away evil spirits and that power was even more intense when the stone was set in gold. It was also said to strengthen the power of any medicine drunk from goblets carved from the gemstone.

Although peridot is a common gem, today most are mined by Native Americans on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Fine large peridot specimens are found in Myanmar (formerly Burma) and peridot is also mined in China and Sri Lanka. The beaches on the island of Oahu (Hawaii) are covered with tiny grains of the precious olivine, but they are much too small to cut into jewelry. In 1994, a new deposit was discovered in Pakistan, and these stones are now considered to be the finest ever seen.

Peridot is the birthstone for August and the zodiac sign Leo.

Used with permission from Michael W. Davidson, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Florida State University

### SMS Roster Updates *A monthly update of SMS member information.*

Please make note of the following new and returning members and note them in your SMS club roster. Changes or corrections should be forwarded to the editor at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net) or by phone at (916) 451-4806.

Mary C. Adamis-Viers  
10149 Crawford Way, Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 361-3563, [palimino916@sbcglobal.net](mailto:palimino916@sbcglobal.net)

Mary Ellen (Mele) Huffman  
P.O. Box 160504, Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 422-9042, [melesgate@lanset.com](mailto:melesgate@lanset.com)

Michael Running Bear  
3206 Iberian Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833  
(510) 457-6600, [joshuatreesage@hotmail.com](mailto:joshuatreesage@hotmail.com)

Anne Jacobson  
2700 American River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864  
[rayannej@winfirst.com](mailto:rayannej@winfirst.com)

Sandy Radzik  
7735 Bahama Court, Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
(916) 863-6114, [sradzik@ibius.jnj.com](mailto:sradzik@ibius.jnj.com)

### Educational Meeting—July 19, 2007

The Educational Meeting began at 7:25 with the *Pledge of Allegiance* being said.

Frank Fawcett announced our new members from the past two months: **Mary Adamis-Viers, Jon Lewis, Michael Burkelo, Missy Lange, Michael Soto, Jacqueline Cooper, Sandy Radzik, and Michael Running Bear.** “Introductions” of some of these members were made in the July edition of *The Matrix*.

President Kevin Beghul announced that the SMS Open House event will be held on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also be hosting the CO-OP quarterly meeting function that day as well. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, take-down, food prep, etc. Additionally, we ask all members to bring a picnic-friendly side dish or dessert to contribute to the lunch. We had a great turn-out of members with some yummy contributions at our spring Open House and hope for a repeat performance!

We will soon be starting to recruit members for the November show. Whether you’re willing to help in the planning and preparation in a specific area or would just be willing to work a few hours over the weekend, all are asked to contribute in some way. Having over 90 member volunteers last year (more than half our membership at that time) was what made the show a success and we hope to do even better this year!

Long-time member, **Jim Foskett**, has been having health issues and has recently been in the hospital. A card is being sent with our good thoughts.

Kevin and **Dan Brown** announced that the SMS will be sponsoring a field trip to Oregon over the Labor Day weekend to search for sunstones.

**Dixie Christenson** asked for volunteers to come on Saturday, July 21, to help beginning the rehab of club cases in preparation for the November Show. Some cases may need to be repainted in the near future, so anyone willing to help out should contact Dixie or a board member.

The presentation for the evening was by **Claude Huber** on the topic of his favorite Northern California collecting sites. (See the article on page 10 of this issue of *The Matrix* for details.) He also gifted the club with two very beautiful specimens: an amethyst cluster from Brazil and a piece of chalcopyrite with epidote, quartz and sheelite from Garnet Hill; they will be on display in the clubhouse shortly.

The meeting broke at approximately 9:00 p.m

~Kris J. (*Scribe de jour*) on behalf of Joy Fergoda

**Thank you!!**

**To Dixie Christenson**  
 For all the time she spent working on the club exhibit cases to start getting them ready for the show.



### The Ringing Rocks

The ringing rocks at *Ringling Rocks State Park* in Pennsylvania form an open field ten feet thick and seven acres in size. What is unusual about this grouping of rocks is that when they are lightly struck with a hammer, they will vibrate and make a sound similar to a bell. The rocks are composed of diabase, the same type of stone that makes up most of the earth’s crust. All the rocks are made up of this iron and hard mineral material, but only one-third of them make the ringing sound when hit.

Geologist, Richard Faas experimented with the rocks in 1965, finding that they made a series of tones at frequencies lower than the human ear can hear. But because the rocks interact with each other, a high pitch sound is generated that a person can hear.

*The Discovery Channel* showed a video of this geology mystery. It was amazing to see kids and adults all with rock hammers in hand hitting the stones. Some of the people were actually playing musical tunes on the rocks. With all the different tones the sounds were very beautiful.

If you want to visit the ringing rocks, the most well-known location is southeast of the Allentown-Bethlehem area in eastern Pennsylvania. To get there, start in Easton, Pennsylvania, and go south along Route 611. Continue until the intersection with Route 32 at Kintnersville. Take Route 32 south to Narrows Hill Road, then to Ringing Rocks Road. Look for *Ringling Rocks Park*.

*Via Napa Gems, 10/06*



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## "Favorite Collecting Sites in Northern California"

—A Presentation by Claude Huber given July 19, 2007

Claude resides in Sonora, California, and has been a mineral collector all his life. He became a dealer (visit with him at our November show!) simply because he "couldn't stand not to go to Tucson" and had a goal of trying to avoid loosing his nest egg in his collecting habit! He has degrees in mining and aerospace engineering, but his true passion is crystals and minerals. He brought along a few specimens for show and tell that he found in the places he would be talking about simply to prove that it's possible for anyone to find a good "bragging rock".

His presentation began with some tips for a successful specimen collecting trip:

- Do your homework; know what you're looking for, the conditions you'll be in, and who owns the land you'll be searching on. Claude shared some good research material and highly recommends the following reference texts: *Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy*, *Bureau of Mines Bulletin 189*, *Minerals of California* by Pemberton, and the reference guide from the *Bureau of Mines in Nevada*. A question was asked about the value of the *Gem Trail Guides*; Claude indicated they were useful tools to get you into some good "neighborhoods", but that once such maps are in print the areas they cover are fairly well known and likely well picked over.
- Get permission from the land owner if needed. You can search out ownership through county offices.
- Take along good maps and/or GPS. Especially "make maps your friend". GPS is good, but not necessary; longitude and latitude is indicated on most maps and all you need do is use a ruler to connect two points!
- Plan for a one day trip, but prepare for two. You never know what can happen when you're out in the field.
- Create and use a trip check list.
- Go with friends to help share expenses and for better safety.
- Be sure to bring along plenty of food and especially water, clothes, bug spray and medications.
- Decide with your trip mates in advance how to share the specimens you find. There's nothing worse than ending your trip in disagreement over who gets to take a specimen home.
- If you prepare right, the stage is set for success and fun.

Claude emphasized four areas during his talk:

**Carson Hill Mine** – Near New Malones Reservoir and five minutes south of Angels Camp on Highway 49. Permission is required to search the area (the contact is *Carson Hill Rock Products*). In the area you can find: ankerite, pyrite, calcite, quartz, galena, mariposite, bornite, and possibly gold and tellurides. Be sure to bring a crack hammer, chisel, goggles and a bucket to carry your treasures home in.

**Garnet Hill Area** – in northeast Calaveras County, fifteen miles southeast of Cook Station on Highway 88. Good search areas are on the south side of the river and Moore Creek. There are several mining claims and you need permission before searching the area.

Possible finds include: bornite, garnet, epidote, molybdenite, calcite, chalcopryrite, scheelite and quartz. The area is quiet and secluded; beware of poison oak and the occasional black bear sighting. Campgrounds are available on the south side of the Mokelumne River.

**Pino Grande** – Located between Georgetown and Placerville, take Mosquito Road north 25 miles to the area. There are many small prospects, outcrops and old rockhound holes, and you have a good chance of finding new small pockets of material that include: quartz, smoky quartz, wavellite, rutile, limonite, pyrite and schorl. Claude shared that he found his best quartz and rutile specimens in this area and they were even better than those found in Central America! He suggested looking for outcrops with a bit of quartz showing and taking a small shovel and crow bar. He also said that you might have to do a bit of walking to find your perfect area. He stressed to remember that in all these areas, "the best leapers have leapt"; meaning, you likely have to dig for good specimens as most surface finds have been well picked over.

**Copperopolis** – The site is a small town 35 miles east of Stockton on Highway 4 and you need permission from the owners as it is private property. There are several famous gold and copper mines nearby, including Union and Keystone. Claude suggested looking in old, large dumps for finds such as: pyrite, chalcopryrite, bornite, and possible gold and tellurides.

**Black Rock Mine** – Located 10 miles south of Benton Hot Springs and southeast of Mono Lake, there are abandoned tungsten open pits and past underground mining. This is a good spot for finding florescent material. A car will work well, but 4WD here is a plus. Definitely plan an overnight stay because of the distance; you can dry camp at the mill site below the mine. Finds here include: garnet, epidote, scheelite, molybdenite, rhodonite, quartz, calcite, dolomite, bornite, chalcopryrite and more!

Claude closed his talk by stressing that field collecting is a very important part of our hobby. Avoid listening to naysayers who try to tell you that you'll never be lucky – it's a self-fulfilling prophesy. Just go collect. Plan for success, enjoy yourself, have fun and bring home your own "bragging rock"!

Thank you, Claude, for a great presentation!

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(Amber, Continued from page 5)

name for this gem; *pö-she*, which meant perfumed crystal. The ancient Germans burned amber as incense, so they called it *bernstein*, or 'burn stone'. Clear, colorless amber was considered the best material for rosary beads in the Middle Ages on account of its smooth silky feel. Certain orders of knights controlled the trade, and unauthorized possession of raw amber was illegal in most of Europe by the year 1400. Amber was one of the first commercial products and was traded for centuries by the Assyrians, Egyptians, Etruscans, Phoenicians and Greeks. It never completely went out of vogue. Between 1895 and 1900, one million kilograms of Baltic amber were produced for jewelry.

Amber is found all over the world; however the two main sources of amber on the market today are the Baltic states and the Dominican Republic. Amber from the Baltic regions is older, and thus preferred, but that obtained from the latter is more likely to have insect inclusions. Amber prices can range from \$20 to \$40,000 or more.

The largest mine in the Baltic region is in Russia, west of Kaliningrad. Baltic amber is found in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Russia, and occasionally washed up on the shores of the Baltic Sea as far away as Denmark, Norway, and England. Other amber sources include Myanmar (formerly Burma), Lebanon, Sicily, Mexico, Romania, Germany, and Canada.

The quantity of resin which must have been generated in the Baltic deposits is phenomenal, confirmed by the amount of amber that has been extracted from various Baltic mines. The *Palmnicken* factory, a German government-controlled company, extracted a record 1,205,916 pounds in 1925.

The largest known piece of Baltic amber ever found, weighs 21.5 pounds, it was found near Stettin, Poland, in 1860 and now resides in the *Museum fur Naturkunde* in Berlin. Unconfirmed reports exist of a 4400 pound monster discovered in Samland in

1862 but it may be nothing more than a story.

There are many myths surrounding the origin of amber. Ovid wrote that when Phaethon, a son of Helios, the sun, convinced his father to allow him to drive the chariot of the sun through the heavens for a day, he erred too close to the earth, scorching it. To save the earth, Zeus struck Phaethon with a thunderbolt and he died, plunging out of the sky. His mother and sister turned into trees in their grief but still mourned him. Their tears, dried by the sun, are amber. The Greeks called amber *electron* (sun-made) perhaps because of this story, or perhaps because it becomes electrically charged when rubbed with a cloth and can attract small particles.

As a medicine, powdered amber was mixed with honey and used as a curative for asthma, gout, and the black plague. In ancient times, it was used as a penicillin-type remedy. It is sacred to Native Americans and Eastern Indians, and was used in fire ceremonies of tribal healers. Today amber is still used as a medicine in some countries, and is said to assist the body to heal itself, transmuting negative energy into positive energy.

Amber was worn as an amulet to preserve chastity and as a symbol for the renewal of marriage vows and to assure promises. It has been used as a talisman to guard against evil and to bring good luck to warriors. Sailors believed that burning amber would keep them safe from sea monsters, and legend tells of the belief that Amber provided magicians and sorcerers with special enhanced powers.

Powers attributed to amber include love, strength, luck, healing and protection, calming for hyperactivity and stressed nerves, and finding humor and joy. It is said to help in matters of choice. It can help cleanse the environment, removing energy blockages and strengthening the physical body. It is excellent for enhancing altered states of consciousness.



### Join In the Search for the Sun(stone)

The SMS is sponsoring a CO-OP field trip to Oregon this Labor Day weekend. The location is 20 miles north of Plush, an area known for its abundance of gem grade sunstone (feldspar), the subject of our treasure hunting. Side trips for other material may be organized. Digging at the BLM site is free; there are two other mining claims nearby that offer fee digging for sunstone.

The proposed schedule will begin each day at 9:00 a.m. at the campground at the BLM collecting area. Please bring a pick, shovel, trowel, garden claw, screen boxes, drift bar, and containers to haul away your treasures. Be aware that this is desert area and is expected to be warm to hot in September. Be safety aware and beware of heat, snakes, sun exposure and dehydration. Pants or cargo shorts and hats are recommended.

Dry camping will be available at the BLM collecting area; no water is available at the campsite. Please note that any other facilities, including motels, are approximately 40 miles away. CO-OP signs will be posted to help everyone find the group. The area is generally accessible by all vehicles. There are limited supplies available in Plush, about 20 miles from camp.

A map and directions can be obtained by contacting Field Trip Chair, Dan Brown by email at [danbrown@volcano.net](mailto:danbrown@volcano.net) or phone (209) 296-6466.

Photos to the right from *Dust Devil Mining* website at: <http://www.dustdevilmining.com/Default.asp>.



#### Sunstone Info on the Web

Photo left from: [http://highdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/spectrum\\_sunstone\\_mines.html](http://highdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/spectrum_sunstone_mines.html)

### Rocks of the Klamath

In the Klamath Basin, Oregon, there are rocks such as jasper, petrified wood, obsidian, thunder eggs, and tracinite (a rare jasper in gleaming greens, red and gold that sells for \$70.00/lb).

Hart Mountain jasper can be found in Lake County at the base of Hart Mountain, near the town of Plush. Jasper, agate nodules, petrified wood, and tracinite can be found in the Dog Lake area. This is *Fremont National Forest* with some private land inclusions, and you will need the U.S. Bureau of Land Management map which is available at the Klamath Falls BLM Office at 2795 Anderson Avenue. Garwin Carlson, Past President of the *Klamath Falls Rock and Arrowhead Club*, advises that rockhounds should look for freshly uncovered earth in landslide areas to find recently uncovered pieces of jasper.

The basin also has collectable gems – sunstones. The sunstones come in a variety of colors from champagne to green to red. One faceted sunstone from the *Snakebite Sunstone Mine*, gorgeous red, is valued between \$12,500 and \$18,000. After winter rains, sunstones can be found sparkling on the surface of the land. Although hand tools can be used in the area, the simplest way to find sunstones is to walk along and pick them up off the ground.

There are guidelines for picking up rocks, and a BLM permit is required in some areas and for some quantities of material. A reasonable amount of daily collecting will fit into the trunk of your car and weigh less than 250 pounds. The material can be collected for non-commercial use only.

Of course, know whose property you are on, get permission to collect, limit your excavation to four feet of original surface, and fill in holes you have dug. Stay out of old mines, find out if there are any fire restrictions, and come prepared with water, food and necessary clothing. No developed campsite or water is available.

Reference: *Herald and News*, Klamath Falls, Oregon 7/28/05, via *Tumble Rumble*, 07/07



The Plush, Oregon, sunstone gemfield (Near Hart Mountain) is located approximately 50 miles northeast of Lakeview, Oregon, and 20 miles north of the tiny town of Plush. You won't see any redwood trees in the area, but there are plenty of jackrabbits! Don't forget the sunscreen and cold beer if you plan to visit in the summertime.

#### Plush Oregon Mine Information

<http://www.mtlilygems.com/mineinfo/plshinfo.html>

The arid south-central portion of Oregon is a classic volcanic region. There the relatively young rock consists of dark basalts, andesites, rhyolites, ash and cinders. Millions of years ago a magma chamber several miles below the surface supported the correct geochemical conditions for the growth of labradorite, a calcium-rich plagioclase feldspar. These crystals grew as phenocrysts in the basalt magma and eventually reached the surface through magma outflows. Also present in the magma was a small amount of copper that co-crystallized with the labradorite. It is the trace amounts of copper, forming tiny platelets, that gives rise to the unusual aventurescence or "schiller" of much of this sunstone.

The sunstone gemfields have long been a favorite with collectors. Portions of the gemfield have been reserved for collecting by the general public, other areas have been commercially mined on a small scale for many years. Other sunstone deposits occur in the same general area of the state and produce equally beautiful gems (See "Mining the Sun" by Chris Johnston, *Lapidary J.*, Vol. 44, Noll, pg. 75, 1991 or *Gems & Gemology*, Winter, 1991).

## What is Obsidian?

—By Don Shurtz, *Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas*



The answer to this question ought to be easy—obsidian is Mother Nature's natural glass. Usually high in rhyolite, most obsidian is formed when rhyolitic lava flows cool very rapidly preventing crystallization. The primary mineral content of rhyolite is Silicon Dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), although oxides of sodium and potassium can also be present in concentrations of up to 5 percent.

Most obsidian is dark in color, the coloring agent being iron oxide. Dark colored obsidian's color is generally caused by magnetite (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>). If the iron is more highly oxidized, it becomes red or brown, the color being caused by hematite (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

Gas cavities are often formed near the surface of lava flows that form obsidian. Sometimes the gas cavities are numerous as to become the predominant feature of the rock. If the cavities are small, rock has the appearance of froth or foam and is called *pumice*. If the cavities are larger, the rock is referred to as *scoria*. If the cavities are subsequently filled with minerals (quartz, calcite, etc.) the rock is referred to as *amygdoloid*.

One of the most common uses of obsidian results because it fractures easily in a conchoidal (concentric ridges or cone-shaped) pattern. That use has been around for a long time, as evidenced by the formation of hand tools and arrow points by flaking. Obsidian is often recommended for those learning how to flake stones (also known as flint-knapping) due to the ease with which the fractures can be formed.

Snowflake obsidian is dark obsidian with white inclusions. One myth is that the white inclusions are volcanic ash trapped in the obsidian. In fact, the white inclusions are chistobalite, a form of quartz. These white inclusions, being of the same basic chemical composition (SiO<sub>2</sub>), grinds and polishes at the same rate, thus a polished piece of snowflake obsidian is easily formed.

Obsidian is found in many localities, especially near recent (geologically speaking) volcanoes. The *Obsidian Cliffs* in Yellowstone National Park is a classic example. Other locations include California, Oregon, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming.

### References:

Fay, Gordon S., *The Rockhound's Manual*, © 1972, Harper and Row, NY  
Loomis, Frederick B., *Field Book of Common Rocks and Minerals*, © 1923, 1948, G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY

*Obsidian is Hot Stuff*, [http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vw\\_hyperexchange/obsidian.html](http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vw_hyperexchange/obsidian.html)

*Snowflake Obsidian*, <http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vwlessons/lessons/Slideshow/Igrock7.html>

USGS, <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/Products/Pglossary/obsidian.html>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

Via Breccia 07/06

## SMS Calendar

All events held at the SMS clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

### August

- 9<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
All members welcome!
- 11<sup>th</sup>—Saturday Workshop with Kevin Beguhl  
Wire Wrap or Dichroic Glass (Take your pick!)  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee
- 16<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Dan Brown: *"Montana Collecting Trip"*  
Bob Willis: *"Identifying and Assessing Colored Gemstones at Sales and Auctions Using Simple Hand Tools"*
- 18<sup>th</sup>—Saturday SMS Open House/BBQ/Tailgate Event  
The perfect time to introduce your friends and family to the SMS and what we have to offer!  
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on the clubhouse grounds  
1:30 p.m.-?: CO-OP Quarterly Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup>—Saturday Workshop with Kevin Beguhl  
Wire Wrap or Dichroic Glass (Take your pick!)  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee

### September

- 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>—Saturday thru Monday SMS-sponsored CO-OP field trip to Plush, Oregon for Sunstone. See additional information on the CO-OP website or on page 12 of this edition of *The Matrix*.
- 13<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
All members welcome!
- 20<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction  
Topic: Tips and Techniques for Creating Your Rockhound Display (Speaker TBD)

### October

- 11<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
All members welcome!
- 18<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction  
Topic TBD

### November

- 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>—Fri. thru Sun. SMS "Golden Harvest of Gems, Jewelry & Minerals" Show at the Scottish Rite Center, J Street
- 8<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
All members welcome!
- 15<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction  
Topic TBD

### December

- 13<sup>th</sup>—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
All members welcome!
- 20<sup>th</sup>—Thursday SMS Holiday Dinner and Installation of 2008 Officers (Facility still to be determined.)

**Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday  
from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Spread the word and bring a friend!**

## SMS Bulletin Board

Have something to sell or trade? Eager to make a connection with others of like mind or with specific interests or talents? Do you just want to pass on a little piece of information? Let others know! Messages and announcements from members of the SMS or members of other area societies are free of charge. Email the information to [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net) by the 25th of the month for display in the next issue of *The Matrix*.

### FOR SALE

Diamond Pacific Titan	\$2500.00
Vibrasonic 35-pound Tumbler	\$250.00
24" Diamond Pacific Saw	\$2000.00
Baranka Polisher/Grinder	\$250.00
10" Frantom Saw	\$200.00

Please contact **Jim Foskett** at (916) 685-4111.

**Needed for the 2007 Show:** Plastic, wood, clay, or other beads for use by children at the show to make necklaces and bracelets. Beads should be large enough that they can be held by small hands and can easily be strung onto heavier string or cord. Contributions may be dropped off at the clubhouse at any time.

## Know Your Rocks

**Leaverite:** Also known as dropite, junkite, and crudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitutes 90% of most rocks. This includes Sour Grape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

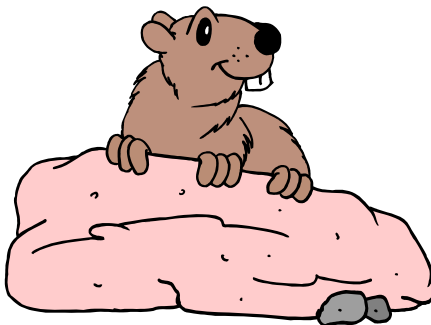
**Sack Rock:** This is material that is stuffed into a sack but falls from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a corner and forgotten.

**Wonder Rock:** You always wonder why you brought it home and where you found it.

**Braggin' Rock:** Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon, or fondled until it assumes a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

**@#&\*!# Rock:** A large, heavy possibly angular rock that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

*American River Currents  
Via Tumbler 07-08/00*



*(Continued from page 1)*

my side, they would first have to try this intoxicating but very relaxing drug. As it goes, I have often gone the direction of many addicts – I have taken the next step and started dealing and selling this drug to others to help support my habit. Admitting this, I am not fearful of being arrested because in most cases this addiction has not been classified as illegal. People that know me and read this may ask how I can justify getting my six-year old daughter (she was three when I gave her the first dose of this drug) addicted; well, I thought it was a way that my whole family could spend more time together doing something that we were all involved in.

They say that admitting that you're an addict is the first step to overcoming an addiction. Well, I admit that I am addicted, but I have no desire to be cured; and due to the lack of a twelve-step program for this addiction, I have a feeling that many of my fellow addicts may also have no desire to be "cured". Come to think about it, it might be better for society if we could get more people addicted due to the calming affect of some of the varieties of this drug.

Well, enough stalling... Let me now disclose the addiction that I am talking about. The drug that I am addicted to and have admitted getting my entire family hooked on is... **rocks and minerals!** Yes, that's it. I am an admitted rockhound and collector, and I even do it openly and proudly.

There are many forms of this addiction. There are people who say they just enjoy the beauty of rocks and minerals (many are just gorgeous). Some say that they seek the healing powers of

various stones (this practice goes way back in history). Other people make use of the, "I just need rocks for my garden" excuse. There are people that are interested in various stones for the monetary value (precious stones and metals). And as with any other addiction, you have people that do not fully understand nor believe that they have an addiction (they're still in denial) to the stones because they just call it "jewelry".

No mater how you look at it, this is probably the oldest and most wide-spread addiction that there has ever, or will ever, be and there are almost no downfalls or side effects to becoming addicted to rocks and minerals. In fact, there may be (as argued by many people that have become addicted) a soothing and healthy benefit to this drug.

And unlike other types of addictions that overtake human beings forcing them to avoid attention and belong to twelve-step programs, I and others like me belong to rock-collecting groups or mineral societies where we can promote our addiction openly and proudly.

So on one hand, I would like to say go forth and get as many people hooked on this drug as you can. But on the other hand (the selfish one), the more people that become addicted to rocks and minerals (for whatever reason), the harder it becomes to get some of the varieties of our drug. Well, at least for now I think there is enough to go around, so happy rockhounding and collecting!

Admitted addict and collector,

Kevin Beguhl, 2007 President, Sacramento Mineral Society

Ho-Ho-Huh?????



It may still be the middle of summer with the majority of us trying to fight the heat, but it's not too early to begin planning for our annual SMS Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers.

The SMS Holiday Dinner is traditionally held on the third Thursday of December in lieu of an Educational Meeting. That would make the date this year tentatively Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

The club is in need of a restaurant facility where we can hold the event, preferably with a banquet room that can accommodate approximately 50 people. We would like to keep the per person meal price at approximately \$15.00. We've previously had our dinners at *The Old Spaghetti Factory*, and last year's dinner was held at *Cassiday's* on Folsom Boulevard.

If you know of a restaurant (or combo facility/caterer) that would fit our needs, please let a board member know ASAP. It's not too early to reserve our spot for December; many restaurants book up their holiday parties as early as July.

We would also appreciate a volunteer to coordinate the event. Responsibilities would include contacting the selected facility to place the reservation, determining the dinner selection options, collecting all reservations, and possibly assisting in coordinating the evening's details (installation ceremony, gift exchange, etc.) If you enjoy planning parties, this is the perfect job for you! To volunteer, please notify a board member as soon as possible or drop a note to the editor at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net).

A Few New Names for Our Membership Role

**Mary Adamis-Viers** of Sacramento is a preschool teacher with the SCUSD and indicates that she joined the club because she's "anxious for more activities with adults". She's interested in mineralogy, lapidary, geology, field trips and lost wax casting, and has a small collection. She's anxious to help out with social events, juniors programs, and the show. Mary found our club on-line before visiting for the first time at our last Open House.

Sharing at the July Educational Meeting that she has always like stones – especially the beauty they display when wet—**Mary Ellen (Mele) Huffman** is actually interested in all of our club's offerings. She is willing to help with publicity for the club and in our annual show.

**Sandy Radzik** of Fair Oaks is employed by Ortho-McNeil Pharmacy. She is primarily interested in lapidary. She admits to being relatively new to the lapidary arts and study of minerals, and has not yet acquired a collection. She is willing to lend assistance in the areas of club publicity and social events.

Hearing about us from our friends at *Rockhound Saloon*, **Michael Running Bear** has been interested in mineralogy and lapidary since 1967. He has a collection of stones and crystals and is willing to help with the annual show. Michael is self-employed and participates in shows where he sells some of his creations and other products.

Please welcome our enthusiastic new members!




## KATERINA'S TREASURES

FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS

SILVER & GOLD JEWELRY ~ SCREAM BODY JEWELRY ~ BLACKHILLS GOLD  
 LOOSE GEMS ~ MONTANA SILVERSMITHS ~ CANDLES ~ FINDINGS ~ CELTIC JEWELRY  
 BEADS ~ MOUNTINGS ~ WIRE WRAPPING SUPPLIES TOOLS ~ LOOSE CABOCHONS  
 HAND MADE & WIRE WRAP JEWELRY  
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25% DISCOUNT TO ALL SMS MEMBERS

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## CO-OP

[www.coop.5u.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.coop.5u.com) or by contacting *The Matrix*'s editor at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto: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.

- Aug. 4 & 5 **Edward's Crossing** on the Yuba River for a workshop on gold panning. Sponsored by the *Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society*. Limited to 30 non-*Sutter Buttes Society* members. Information available on the CO-OP website or contact the trip leaders, Gerald and Grace Hill at (530) 695-1595.
- Aug. 11 **Sutter Creek, CA** for commercial fee tour of underground *Sutter Gold Mine*, picnic lunch in Fiddletown, and a visit to the *Rockhound Saloon* rockshop. *Carmichael Gem and Mineral Society*. No collecting, just shopping. Information on the CO-OP website or contact trip leader, Debbie Bunn at (916) 929-6665 or [fossilsff@aol.com](mailto:fossilsff@aol.com).
- Aug. 18 **Sacramento (Rancho Cordova), CA** for Quarterly CO-OP meeting. Hosted by the *Sacramento Mineral Society*, the meeting will coincide with the club's bi-annual Open House/BBQ/Tailgate event beginning at 10:00 a.m. BBQ lunch served from 10:30-1, \$4.00 per person. CO-OP meeting in the clubhouse at 1:30. Those attending the meeting should RSVP to Florence Brady at [fhbrady@jps.net](mailto:fhbrady@jps.net) or (916) 961-6868, and Jim Barton at [geologist1@surewest.net](mailto:geologist1@surewest.net) or (916) 773-0458.
- Aug. 24-27 **Echo Mountain Stone Claim** for obsidian and combination fossils. Sponsored by the *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society*, this is a fee dig (\$15.00/100 pounds) limited to 30 people. Dry camping approximately 20 miles from claim. Details and directions on the CO-OP website. Contact the trip leader for further information and confirm attendance by 8/20/07. Dick Pankey, [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com) or (925) 439-7509.
- Aug. 27-31 **Davis Creek/Lassen Creek** for obsidian from five collecting sites. Sponsored by the *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society*. Dry camping at *Lassen Creek Campgrounds*. Details and directions on the CO-OP website. Contact the trip leader for information and confirm attendance by 8/20/07. Dick Pankey, [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com) or (925) 439-7509.
- Aug. 27-30 **Virgin Valley, NV** for precious opal and petrified wood at the *Rainbow Ridge Mine*. Sponsored by the *Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club*, guests are allowed. Contact: Jim Dunlap, [jimsopals@comcast.net](mailto:jimsopals@comcast.net) or (209) 487-0747. See CO-OP website for additional information and facilities. Note that requests to search through virgin material fresh from the mine are limited and reservations must be made in advance.
- Sept. 1-3 **Plush, OR** for gem grade sunstone (feldspar). Sponsored by the *Sacramento Mineral Society*, members' guests are allowed. Contact Dan Brown, (209) 296-6466 or [danbrown@volcano.net](mailto:danbrown@volcano.net). Dry camping in BLM collecting area. Map and directions may be obtained from trip leader. BLM digging area is free; there are two mining claims nearby that have fee digging available. (See the articles elsewhere in this issue of *The Matrix* for further information.)
- Sept. 1-3 **Austin, NV** for snakeskin agate, fluorite, daisy agate, leaf fossils and maybe something new! Sponsored by *El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society*, trip is limited to members to CO-OP clubs. Contact: Barbara Terrill, (530) 676-2375 or [membership@edcar.org](mailto:membership@edcar.org). See the CO-OP website for information, including vehicle needs, camping and local accommodations.
- Sept. 1-3 **Cedarville, CA** for petrified wood. Sponsored by *Fossils For Fun Society*, trip is open to members of CFMS clubs or those willing to join the FFF. Contacts: Debbie Bunn at (916) 929-6665 or [fossilsff@aol.com](mailto:fossilsff@aol.com), Carole Lockhart and Keith Lindholm at (916) 638-2314 or [cjlockhart@softcom.net](mailto:cjlockhart@softcom.net) or [keith\\_lindholm@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_lindholm@hotmail.com). See the CO-OP website for additional information including camping/motel availability, tools and safety concerns.
- Sept. 23-29 **Southern Utah** for petrified wood, agate, fossils. Sponsored by *Fossils For Fun*. Contact: Carole Lockhart & Keith Lindholm at (916) 638-2314 or [cjlockhart@softcom.net](mailto:cjlockhart@softcom.net). Please review details noted on the CO-OP website for further information.
- Oct. 6 CFMS Seminar for Field Trip Leaders in Los Altos. Details forthcoming.
- Oct. 6 **San Andreas** area for serpentine and to *Stories In Stone* for a presentation by Russ Shoemaker. *Sun City Lincoln Hills Gem & Mineral Society*.
- Oct. 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*.

## Upcoming Shows &amp; Events

- August 3-5 **Nipomo, CA.** *Orcutt Mineral Society.* St. Joseph Church, 298 S. Thompson Ave. West Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788.
- August 4-5 **San Francisco, CA.** *San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society's 53rd annual "Golden Gateway to Gems".* S.F. Country Fair Bldg., 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. \$6. Ellen Nott, (415) 564-4230, [www.sfgms.org](http://www.sfgms.org).
- August 31–  
September 3 **Fort Bragg, CA.** *Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society.* Town Hall, Main & Laurel. Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4. Don McDonell, (707) 964-3116.
- September 15 **Fiddletown, CA.** *The Rockhound Saloon's "2nd Annual Rock Tail-Gate"* in conjunction with the Fiddletown Fiddlers' Jam and Street Fair. Hours: 10-5. Vilia, (209) 245-3912.
- September 15-16 **Jackson, CA.** *Fossils For Fun Society's 7th Annual Tailgate Gemboree.* Kennedy Gold Mine, 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd. Hours: 9-5 both days. Dan Brown, (209) 296-6466, [fossilsforfun@hotmail.com](mailto:fossilsforfun@hotmail.com).
- September 15-16 **Redwood City, CA.** *Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society's 41st Annual "Harvest of Gems and Minerals".* Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Hours: 10-5 both days. Carol Corden, (650) 248-7155, [ccorden@earthlink.net](mailto:ccorden@earthlink.net), [www.sgms.drifmine.com/home.htm](http://www.sgms.drifmine.com/home.htm).
- September 22 **Los Altos, CA.** *Peninsula Gem & Geology Society's "Recreation with Rocks".* Rancho Shopping Center, Foothill Exp. and Springer Road. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.. David Muster, (408) 245-2180, [colleen.mcgann@hds.com](mailto:colleen.mcgann@hds.com).
- September 22-23 **Downey, CA.** *Delvers Gem & Mineral Society.* Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. Steve Miller, (562) 633-0614, email: [guynellallen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:guynellallen@sbcglobal.net).
- September 29-30 **Stockton, CA.** *Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club's "Earth's Treasures".* Scottish Rite Temple, 33 W. Alpine St. Hours: 10-5 both days. Nettie Meissner, (209) 858-2263, [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com).
- October 3-7 **Joshua Tree, CA.** *The 32nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Crafts Show.* 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree. Hours: M-Sat. 8-5, Sund. 8-3. Over 50 dealers of gems, rock minerals, crafts, lapidary and rock polishing equipment. Raffles, Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Classic Car Display, Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue Demonstration, Flag Raising Ceremony. All proceeds go to: *Sportsman's Building Fund* and *TLC (Tender Loving Christmas)*. (760) 366-2915.
- October 7 **Fallbrook, CA.** *Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society's "Fall Festival of Gems".* FGMS Museum, 123 W. Alvarado. Hours: 10-4. Mary Fong-Walker, (760) 723-3484, [mrwizard@tfb.com](mailto:mrwizard@tfb.com), [www.FGMSORG/organization/orglocations/html](http://www.FGMSORG/organization/orglocations/html).
- 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.
- October 13-14 **Lakeside, CA.** *Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview. Hours: 10-5 both days. David Newton, (619) 390-5054, email: [jontom@netthere.com](mailto:jontom@netthere.com).
- October 13-14 **Trona, CA.** *Searls Lake Gem & Mineral Society's "66th Annual Gem-O-Rama".* Searles Lake G&M Society, 13337 Main Street. Hours: Sat. 7:30-5, Sun. 7:30-4. Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356, email: [jbfairchild@verizon.net](mailto:jbfairchild@verizon.net). Website: [www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html](http://www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html).
- October 20-21 **Placerville, CA.** *El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society.* El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive. Hours: 10-5 both days. Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975, [jacobcer@directcon.net](mailto:jacobcer@directcon.net), [www.eldoradomineralandgem.org](http://www.eldoradomineralandgem.org).
- October 20-21 **Anderson, CA.** *Shasta Gem & Mineral Society.* Shasta District Fairgrounds. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Bill Steward, (530) 365-8641.
- October 20-21 **Santa Rosa, CA.** *Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society.* Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1351 Maple Avenue. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Shirley Mattson or Tom Dering, (707) 795-1730 or (707) 564-4537, email: [squirly48@yahoo.com](mailto:squirly48@yahoo.com) or [farmarch@sonic.net](mailto:farmarch@sonic.net). Website: [www.gem-n-i.org](http://www.gem-n-i.org).
- 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. 9-11 **Sacramento, CA.** *Sacramento Mineral Society's "65th Annual Golden Harvest of Gems, Jewelry & Mineral Show".* Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento. [www.sacmineralsociety.org](http://www.sacmineralsociety.org).
- 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.
- Nov. 17-18 **Oxnard, CA.** *Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society.* 800 Hobson Way. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Miriam Tetrault, (805) 642-5779. Website: [www.ogms.net](http://www.ogms.net).

**Show off your membership in the Sacramento Mineral Society by remembering to wear your SMS name badge and/or your SMS t-shirt when visiting shows and rockhounding events!**

**Sacramento Mineral Society's**

# Open House, BBQ & Tailgate

**Saturday, August 18, 2007**

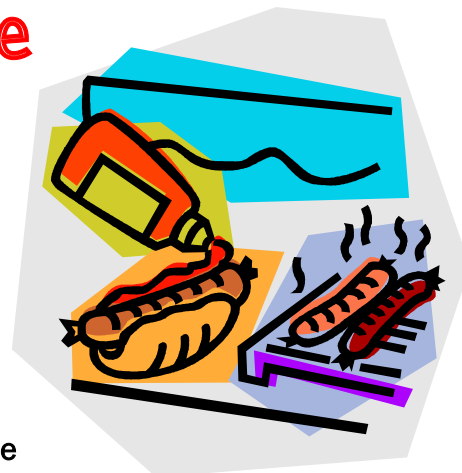
**4205 Lemay Street, Rancho Cordova**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00(-ish) p.m.**

**Delicious BBQ Lunch—\$4.00 donation**

Sales of all types of jewelry, wire wrapping, rough rock, lapidary equipment, nature-related crafts, and more!

Lapidary shop demos, clubhouse with library and displays, free rocks for the kids, large rock pile, and of course... lots of other rockhounds to chat with.



We welcome all SMS and CFMS members to set up tables to swap, sell, show, trade and buy with friendly rockhounds. Please bring a table and RSVP as space is limited. Contact President Kevin Beguhl at (916) 459-7556.

More information about the event can be found on page 3 of this issue of *The Matrix*.

# sms

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

## *The Matrix*

August 2007

