



The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the
Sacramento Mineral Society
Sacramento, California

SMS

February 2007
Volume 67, No. 2

Be a Part of the Fun!! — SMS Committees Now Forming

The Club has been in the process of forming new committees to oversee select areas of the Club, its business and activities. Please consider sharing a bit of your time and expertise in at least one of these areas. The amount of participation necessary will depend on the topic and assignment, but could be as little as a few hours each month or even just a few hours at a particular time of year.

Below is only a selection of the areas where the club is in need of member assistance:

Clubhouse Advisory Committee – (At least three (3) members.) To go through all the contents in the clubhouse and discard unnecessary items. To evaluate and, if necessary, rearrange the remaining contents, including furniture and display cases, to make better use of space. Long-range planning may include ideas for possible expansion. This committee may also be asked to assist in the planning and scheduling of workshops and classes.

Activity Planning – To assist the club in gathering a variety of instructors to share workshops and classes with the membership and the public. We're seeking someone who is willing to watch out for the variety of talents that exist in our membership and recruit those individuals to share their knowledge and practices. Assist with planning and scheduling of activities.

Membership – One (1) permanent volunteer to process all new member applications once a month. Includes creating the new membership packets, ordering and picking up new member badges, and presenting the new member packets to the members at the monthly Educational Meeting or mailing the packet to the member.

Mailing – One (1) volunteer to handle the mailing of the monthly newsletter to those members without email and to exchange clubs. Involves picking up the printed newsletter from the printer, folding, creating and applying labels, purchasing and applying postage and delivering the newsletters to the post office. Usually involves only a few hours at the beginning of each month.

Event Participation Coordinator – At least one (1) person to coordinate the items needed to share with the public when the club heads out to other events (*Gem Faire, Vino Piazza, etc.*) to share information about the club. This person would keep maintained a box of the items handed out at these events (club brochures, flyers, membership applications), schedule volunteers to work the events, and possibly develop displays to use at the events.

Groundskeeper – At least one (1) person to direct maintenance of the clubhouse grounds, including pulling weeds and dumping trash. Team up with others to keep the rock piles semi-organized.

Audit Committee – Two (2) individuals needed to review the 2006 financial records of the club by the end of February/March.

Scholarship – Three (3) individuals needed. Develop criteria for applicants and get the word out about our offerings to local colleges/universities. Eventually vote on applicants and present the scholarships to the winners at the November show. Work together and with the Board to come up with ideas to promote and fund the scholarship on an on-going basis.

Hospitality – Coordinating members to bring treats to the Educational Meetings. Possibly help organize members to bring food items for the Club's Open House events.

By-Laws – Three (3) members needed to review the SMS By-Laws for necessary revisions or updates. This task should be completed by spring 2007.

Show Committees – We've currently got three co-chairs: **Kevin Beguhl, Frank Fawcett, and Kris Jarusevicius**. But we need individuals willing to take on special tasks up to and sometimes including show time. Following are only some of the areas where we need help. If you have any special talents you can lend that are not listed here, please contact one of the show chairs to let them know how you can help. We can put anyone's time and talents to work and any assistance you can lend will benefit the Club.

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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

2007 Board Members

President:	Kevin Beguhl	(916) 459-7556	webebeguhl@aol.com
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	Lana Paulhamus	(916) 372-5117	
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:	Amy Byrd
Historian:	Frank Fawcett		Bill Elkins
Librarian:	Frank Fawcett	Custodian:	Joy Fergoda
Newsletter Mailing:	OPEN	Webmasters:	Kris Jarusevicius
Membership:	Frank Fawcett (Temp)		Tarance Beguhl
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:	Amy Byrd

February Shop Steward Schedule

	Saturday*		Wednesday
Feb. 3	Craig M. / Kevin B.	Feb. 7	Carl Z.
Feb. 10	Jim C. /	Feb. 14	Craig M.
Feb. 17	Sam L. / Kevin B.	Feb. 21	Ron S.
Feb. 24	Tarance / Jim C.	Feb. 28	Stan H.

*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

Welcome to 2007. Let me start off by acknowledging the return of all past members and welcoming all new members. I am a little disheartened at how few of the past members have renewed their membership so far. Let me follow this up with this request: if there is some reason that as a previous member you feel the club has not held your attention and desire to remain, please be kind enough to either email or call me or one of the current Board members to let us know why. I ask this because my job as president, as well as the job of the other members of the Board, is to operate the club in a professional manner but also to operate the club in a way that focuses on the interests, desires and needs of the members to the best of our ability. Again, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please come to a Business Meeting or contact me to let me know. My phone is (916) 459-7556 and my email is webebeguhl@aol.com. That being said, let's move onto other things.

I would like to commend **Frank Fawcett** on a great Educational Meeting in January. With very short notice and great obstacles, he pulled off a winner. The "Show and Tell" get-together was fantastic. Existing members as well as new members and invited guests all had a great time sharing their finds and acquisitions and the stories behind them.

The Board and I have started out on a fast pace this year assigning committees to look into maintenance and upkeep of existing equipment and putting in place a regular program of upkeep so that when you come in to work in the shop there will be working equipment to use. **Tarance Beguhl**, the new Shop Foreman, has had meetings with shop stewards as well as the Maintenance Committee to work towards this goal. The shop stew-

ards are discussing putting in place a voluntary achievement program to help new members better understand how to best use the equipment in a way that they can get the best results from their time as well as protecting the equipment.

There will be vast amounts of new information discussed at the February Business Meeting: the November show, the status of our lease, new display cases, upcoming educational topics, advertising objectives, location of future educational meeting as we grow, junior membership objectives, and the costs of bringing some of the equipment back up to a higher level of usability.

Most if not all the members know that I have been doing wire wrap classes for many months and will continue to do this as there remains a desire. This month I will be doing something a little different. We will be wire-wrapping a crystal in a netted cage and create a pair of wire wrap earrings.

I would greatly appreciate, as would the rest of the members, if some of the highly talented members of our club would think about volunteering to work with us to possibly offer other classes in a variety of topics. Possible ideas are: beading, silversmithing, casting (I know we tried last year, but I think it might be worth trying again since I hear so much interest in it), knapping, and beginner carving, just to name a few ideas.

Thank you for reading this. As the weather warms up so we can work in the shop and clubhouse without fear of our fingers freezing and breaking off, I look forward to seeing all of you coming out and enjoying this disease of Rockhounding that we all seem to have caught. More on this and possible cures in the March issue of *The Matrix*.

—Kevin Beguhl, President

(SMS Committees, Continued from page 1)

Food Committee – **Linda Baglin** has agreed to chair this area; she could use some help in planning the menus, purchasing the food and developing serving procedures. And of course, helping out during the show.

Exhibit Cases need repairing and repainting. This would be a good summer project for one or many people and can even be done at home.

Help with **publicity** in any way will be greatly appreciated. Signs, brochures, printing, flyers, contacting area media, or any other ideas for getting the word out about our show.

Painted rocks are always needed as prizes for the Spinning Wheel, not only at the show, but at all other events we participate in. Paints, brushes and a few idea books are always available in the clubhouse. Take some supplies home with you and keep your hands busy when you're watching your favorite TV shows and help the club out at the same time!

To volunteer to help out in any of the areas above, or in an area not even mentioned here, please contact a board member and let them know of your willingness. Be an active participant in the SMS. It's YOUR club – have some fun with it!

New Members

This month we welcome in three new members.

Sam Gardner of Sacramento is employed by *Groeniger & Co.* and discovered the club via the Internet. He does not currently have a collection, but has been interested in mineralogy and lapidary for about ten years. His interests in the club's offerings include lapidary and attending field trips.

Her husband, **Frank**, having joined our ranks last month, new member **Meg Zbierski** resides in Rancho Cordova and is interested in participating in field trips. Her outside interests include medical terminology and travel.

Doyle Crawford heard about us at the November show and lives in Sacramento. He is retired/self-employed, and feels he can assist the club in areas of publicity and printing by use of his printing press and other related equipment. He's interested in mineralogy, lapidary and geology, but has not yet acquired a collection.

Please be sure to welcome our new members when you see them at the clubhouse and shop!

Business Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order by **Kevin Beguhl** and the *Pledge of Allegiance* was said. A quorum of board members and three regular members were present. The previous month's minutes were approved as read.

Sheldon Shuper reviewed the financial results for the entire 2006 year. The monetary losses in Administrative (\$2,139) and Shop (\$750) were offset by the \$9,462 net profit of our November show. In addition, our four SMS savings accounts total \$33,560. Sheldon confirmed the deposit of \$6000.00 into a new 11-month CD account, and also suggested we consider getting out of the liquid CD accounts when the time comes to renew.

Old Business

The subject of securing a microphone was discussed. Kevin will talk with his family about donating their microphone to the club and should have confirmation by the Educational Meeting.

Three new members voted in for membership.

The subjects of SMS website host change and website modification were discussed. It was determined that because our current host contract is through February 2008 and we have not adequately researched how we might want to change our website, we have formed a Website Committee consisting of volunteers **Jim Christian**, **Kris Jarusevicius**, and **Tarance Beguhl**. They will also be asking **Robert Hall**, who has made viable suggestions in the past, to join them.

Shop Committee foreman, Tarance Beguhl, reported that both *Crystallite* machines have been fitted with new 60-grit hex wheels and all saws will be converted to diesel oil and in working order by January 18. Kevin will donate a diamond drill bit kit and Tarance will donate a flex-shaft *Dremel*. These tools can be used to drill holes (e.g., making pendants, etc.). Shop stewards will need to train members on tool use. Jim Christian suggested we also get a vise-type apparatus with a handle to hold the *Dremel*, and water pan to complete the drilling package. It was MSA that the Shop Foreman purchase these additional items. Lighting has been an issue in the shop; it was MSA that **Frank Fawcett** purchase 200-watt bulbs to replace the ceiling lights that have burned out.

New Business

Several committees and their respective members were named. They are as follows:

- Advertising/Corporate Sponsorship – Kevin Beguhl and Sheldon Shuper. Member **Gene Gardner** has also shared ideas to help the club's publicity and Sheldon will be contacting him to confirm his willingness to help in this area.
- Audit - To review the 2006 financial records by end of February. **Becky Moreland** has expressed interest; Sheldon will contact her; AN ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER IS STILL NEEDED!
- Club House – To go through the clubhouse to discard unnecessary items and rearrange what remains. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
- Show - Kevin Beguhl, Frank Fawcett, and Kris Jarusevicius.

Linda Baglin has volunteered to coordinate the kitchen and dealer dinner.

- Website – Tarance Beguhl, Jim Christian, Kris Jarusevicius, and possibly Robert Hall.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact a committee member. They would be very happy to have more members involved!

As previously discussed, Shop responsibility will be split. Tarance Beguhl, Shop Foreman, will be responsible for shop maintenance and scheduling; **Stan Henneman** and **Carl Zimmerman**, acting as Shop Advisors, will coordinate building maintenance, supplies/inventory, and schedule/coordinate the shop stewards.

Kevin reported that he sold three new ads for *The Matrix* which will help offset printing costs. He also talked to *Kinko's* to see if they would be willing to trade ad space in *The Matrix* for printing it each month. Kevin, Tarance and Kris will follow through on this possibility and report back.

A volunteer is needed to do the monthly *Matrix* mailings which consist of picking up the finished newsletter at the printer (currently about 80 copies), affixing the mailing labels, and taking them to the post office for mailing. It's a fairly easy task, so if you're interested and/or want more info, contact Kris at (916) 451-4806.

Kevin and Frank will attend the January 18th "tenants' meeting" at Mather Field where the possible change in flight pattern and a new "water run-off" tax (\$800/annually) will be discussed, both of which will impact SMS. Our current lease is through September 2008 with a 3-year renewal option, but if the flight pattern changes we may lose our lease and need to relocate. In February, the club will form a Relocation Committee to research possible new locations for SMS should a move become necessary.

Kevin was recently informed by the county assessor's office that the county will begin charging SMS a use tax of \$300-\$500 per year. Kevin will follow up on this.

There was discussion on how often the Club should have rock auctions and spinning wheel "auctions". In previous years, the money made from these endeavors was used to fund an educational scholarship, however, we did not offer a scholarship in 2006. There will be further discussion on this issue.

It was MSA that we have a table at the Cal Expo *Gem Faire* in April and that we have our annual tailgate BBQ one week later.

There was discussion as to whether SMS should purchase a minimal (\$9.99/mo.) phone line/internet connection so that we can have an emergency 911 phone line and access to the computer. Kevin will research this and report back.

Frank suggested SMS devise an "exit survey" to give to members who do not renew their membership so that we can find out how to better meet members' needs. There will be further discussion on this issue.

It was MSA that we change all locks and padlocks and re-issue new key sets to Board members.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Fergoda, Secretary

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.

Onyx

An "Alternate" Birthstone for Those Born in February

Onyx is a banded variety of chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline form of quartz with a fine texture. It is composed of banded silicon dioxide (SiO₂). While black onyx is well known and very popular in and of itself, most onyx has alternating light and dark bands, which are often colored in brown, red, black, white and gray. The variety referred to as sardonyx has white and brown bands. The layers of the stones range from translucent to opaque. Onyx has the same properties as quartz. Sardonyx at one time was more precious than gold, silver or sapphire.

The word *onyx* is derived from the Greek meaning 'nail of a finger or claw'. Legend has it that one day while Venus was sleeping Eros/Cupid cut her fingernails and left the clippings scattered on the ground; because no part of a heavenly body can die, the gods turned them into stone which later became known as onyx. The name onyx was used by the Romans for a variety of stones including alabaster, chalcedony, and what is now known as onyx marble. Roman soldiers wore sardonyx talismans engraved with heroes such as Hercules or Mars, the god of war, believing that the stone would make the wearer as brave and daring as the figure carved on it. During the Renaissance, sardonyx was believed to bring eloquence upon the wearer and was regarded with great value by public speakers and orators.

It is the anniversary stone for the 7th year of marriage; black onyx is the anniversary gemstone for the 10th year of marriage.

Onyx may chip or scratch rather easily, so it should be stored carefully; never allow two specimens to touch each other. It is often mixed with pearls to create elegant jewelry. Onyx is a popular stone used for cameos, where the background material is cut away leaving the cameo design in relief. It is used in intaglios because its layers can be cut to show a color contrast between the design and the background. A 6.5 on the *Mohs* scale, onyx's fine texture makes it ideal for carving.

Black onyx has long been prized in rosary beads and is said to have healing powers, but alternatively, is also said to bring on nightmares and depression, and arguments and losses in courtroom battles. On the other hand, in India, white onyx is said to soothe quarreling couples and cool sexual passion; yellow or honey-color onyx is said to help one know

when to keep silent. Other beliefs tell of it possessing a healing ability that has been used as a heart, kidney, nerve, capillary, hair, eye and nail strengthener, and has been used to treat disorders of the bone marrow and feet. It is also said to help neurological disorders.

The gemstone eliminates negative thinking. It is also believed to sharpen the wits of the wearer and to bring spiritual inspiration. It lends assistance in holding emotions and passions under control and helps one to banish grief, apathy and stress. It enhances self-control, stimulates wise decision-making, encourages happiness and good fortune, and helps one to recognize personal strengths and become the master of one's own future. Black onyx is used to help one change habits, and dreaming of onyx is said to be a harbinger of a happy marriage. It is also said that onyx favors men named Oliver.

Onyx is found worldwide in large and small deposits. Important locales include Mexico, Brazil, Madagascar, India, Algeria and Pakistan.



SMS Education Meeting, January 18, 2007

—By Joy Fergoda

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

This educational meeting was entitled "Tell and Show". Members brought "material" -- rough rocks/specimens, slabs, finished cabs & jewelry, and talked about where and how they found or purchased it and why it is a favorite of theirs.

Frank Fawcett showed several slides of rough material, most of which belong to longtime member, **Les Clark**. Slides included fossil shell rock, jade and Chinese writing rock.

Kevin Beguhl brought cylindrical ore core samples, orange calcite and fluorite rough from a recent trip to Nevada.

New member, **John Lien**, brought in a huge block (130 lbs.) of nephrite (jade) he purchased in 1980. It was beautiful stuff! He's trying to decide what to do with it; perhaps a doorstep!

Jim Foscett showed several spheres he made: snowflake obsidian, marble, rhodonite, and franklinite.

Sheldon Shuper brought in a large rock which he identified as dinosaur bone. He found it in our very own SMS rock pile. He encourages everybody to do your own "digging" in the SMS rock pile; you might get lucky too!

Stanley Henneman brought in several pieces of jade, his favorite material.

Joy Fergoda showed rough and finished cabs & jewelry from her favorite rock/mineral, fluorite, and orange calcite from a trip with the Beguhls to Nevada.

Frank Fawcett demonstrated how to set a rock in plaster-of-Paris so that it can easily be slabbed on our saws. Other members indicated that they use "waterglass" to attach rocks to wood blocks to saw.

Fun was had by all!!





AFMS www.amfed.org

The President's Corner

—By Dick Pankey, CFMS President

There are many elements that make up a gem and mineral show. But my favorite is the exhibit cases. The exhibit cases are what makes it a "show" and not just a selling venue for dealers. Our displays show off our hobby - our skills and our special interests. Exhibiting is a wonderful way to share what we do and to educate the public. Sadly, at many shows there are fewer and fewer exhibit cases. The main reason for this is that fewer and fewer people are exhibiting. There are fewer new people putting together a display case. Older exhibitors aren't bothering to exhibit. There are fewer people participating in the "guest exhibitor circuit." Bottom line: We need more people to get involved and get interested in exhibiting. The need for exhibitors is two fold: 1) We need more people to put their first case together and start exhibiting, and 2) We need more of the people who are already exhibiting at their own club show to be "guest exhibitors."

I am a little baffled by this reluctance to exhibit because it is easy and great fun. "What do I have to show?" If you are a rockhound, if you go on field trips, if you make things (lapidary, jewelry, etc.) with rocks and gemstones, or if you are crafty, you have what is needed for a display. Decide what interests you most. Check out what you have and what you have made and chose what you would like to show off and share. "But I don't know how to put a display case together." The easiest way to learn how to put a display case together is to ask club members who already exhibit. Or go to shows and see what others are doing. Some clubs hold classes for new exhibitors. Then borrow a case from your club and try different ways to set up your display. Ask for comments and guidance. Then put it in a show. It probably won't be perfect the first few times, but that's okay. With practice it will get better.

A big boost to a new exhibitor is praise and encouragement from experienced exhibitors. If you see an interesting new display or one with potential, give some feed back. Tell them what is good about their case and suggest some improvements if appropriate.

Betty and I showed our first display case at our club show when we had been members for only a year. It was a display of "Mostly Obsidian," material we collected at Davis Creek and things that we made with the obsidian. We were pleased with it. But when we took the case down Sunday evening what a surprise. An invitation to exhibit at another local show. We were pleased and honored - invited to another club's show. We went and have been on the "guest exhibitor circuit" ever since. We do about 12 to 15 shows a year. We get invited to a lot of show because we are willing to exhibit a lot. What a great way to spend a weekend - at a show, with other rockhounds.

If you enjoy exhibiting, sharing your talents and collection, consider being a "guest exhibitor" at another club's show. They want you and need you. If there is a show somewhere that you

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plan to attend and would like to exhibit your case, contact that show's exhibit chair and ask for an invitation. Based on past experience they would be very happy to have your case. Filling the display area is becoming a challenge for exhibit chairs and they are always looking for new and different displays.

Hope to see you and your case at a show soon, Dick Pankey.

CFMS Newsletter, 02/07

Let Me Whet Your Appetite!

—From Howie Whiting

A few of the special activities that we'll have at the 2007 Convention this year in Roswell include... New Mexico Minerals! ... Parade of States! ... Field Trips! ... AFMS 60th Anniversary!

Let me whet your appetite!

New Mexico is well known for its fabulous mineral wealth. On Friday afternoon we'll have a seminar on the Minerals of New Mexico moderated by Dr. Virgil Lueth of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. All of the speakers at the seminar will be past recipients of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Honorary Awards.

In addition to all of the competitive and non-competitive exhibits associated with RMFMS and AFMS Conventions, we'll also have a special display that we call the "Parade of States". Rocky Mountain Federation State Directors are being encouraged to enter a display of their state rocks and minerals. A cash award of \$25 will be given to the best display! Here's your chance to see the wealth of the Rocky Mountain Federation.

Field trips are being planned for both during and after the show. These include two trips during the show to hunt for "Pecos Valley Diamonds" and a three-day trip after the conclusion of the show to several sites west of Roswell. We'll have more information on these trips later this spring, but if you are interested in going on any or all, please fill out the "Waiver of Liability" form included in this newsletter and send it in with your registration.

AFMS 60th Anniversary! We're planning to have a special "Birthday Bash" for the AFMS on Thursday night at the time reserved for the Cracker Barrel. Shirley Leeson and her committee are planning on several surprises during this event and we know you won't want to miss it!

All of the registration forms and information on the host motel for the convention are printed in the February edition of the AFMS newsletter or you can download the forms and information from the AFMS website at www.amfed.org/show2007.htm.

Mark your calendar and make your plans. The Roswell Convention (June 7 - 10, 2007) is one that you won't want to miss!

AFMS Newsletter 02/07

Mother Lode Mineral Society Shows Awareness

—By Elizabeth Myers, Membership Committee

In a recent friendly, informative conversation with Terry McMillin she explained what happens when you change the whole attitude of your annual show by shifting the show's focus to education and emphasis on making the show a family event. She believes this change in focus has been pivotal in rejuvenating the Mother Lode Mineral Societies membership.

Terry observed people want to learn things. The special fossil displays the club arranged for their annual show is an attention getter. Fossils are a real attraction for children and adults as well, encouraging family participation.

The Mother Lode Mineral Society's annual show, Terry and husband Bud are co-chairs for the show, is held in March at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock, California. Last year the show featured 25 club member demonstrators in addition to the demonstrating dealers. In Terry's words, "This allows our guests to see that what we do is not difficult when you have good instructors and the proper tools". Terry said the very enthusiastic Jean Hayes, a jewelry instructor at the Modesto Junior College, encourages people with her "can-do" attitude. Photos of her classes are on display at the show and Jean let's people know the Mother Lode Club sponsors the classes. Jean's classes are friendly and well attended. The club also sponsors a lapidary class at the college that is held once a week. When people join the classes it encourages them to join the club, Terry noted.

The club likes to have a variety of dealers (34 at their 2006 show) to appeal to peoples' various interests. And the dealers are doing well at the show as evidenced by one dealer who sold out and had to go back to San Jose to restock his show material. One dealer said she would not be returning because she was kept so busy it took her two weeks to recover! Perhaps one of the dealers from the club's 30 or so waiting list will get their chance at the 2007 show.

The children are kept busy at the show with a very active children's area. Speaking of children, they had over 1,200 children attend last year. How did they get so many? Modesto, as do many schools, prohibits the distribution of materials to students from outside the school sources. This prohibition does not apply to teachers. Terry emailed flyers to teacher's she knew and asked them to distribute the flyers to other teachers to share with their students. And they came through for her. They wanted to see the fossils and so did their families.

Assuring the many areas are kept running smoothly requires good organization and the help of a dedicated, "fantastic membership who generously volunteers their help." Many young people and families cannot allocate the time and resources for an expensive hobby, like lapidary can be, Terry noted. But they can and will participate in day trips and less budget straining aspects of our hobby, like beading. People want to learn things. Create the place where they can start learning. Where they can see, touch and understand they too "can do".

CFMS Newsletter, 02/07

Department Of Interior Announces the New "America The Beautiful" Pass

—From John Spunaugle

New legislation taking affect on January 1 of this year established a new program of passes for the National Parks Service.

Dubbed "America the Beautiful", these passes will be needed to use certain facilities and access certain areas on public land. (If you're a casual user and only visit one or two parks once or twice per year, you will still be able to pay for park use on an individual use basis) The new program replaces the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen. This means the lifetime passes will be valid unless lost or stolen at which time they will need to be replaced.

Cost of the four different passes in the new interagency program are:

1. A new annual interagency pass costing \$80. For visitors to multiple federal sites, the pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a specific period of time beginning from the date of sale.
2. A \$10 lifetime senior pass for U.S. citizens 62 or over.
3. A free lifetime pass for citizens with permanent disabilities.
4. A new, free, annual volunteer pass for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service on a cumulative basis.

Information on the new passes can be found on the internet at: www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/061205.html.

AFMS Newsletter 02/07

Knowing Where You Are

—By Dave Muster via mustersgems@yahoo.com

"In the beginning there was Heaven and Earth", but there were no maps so everyone was lost! If you've ever traveled across our great land you have probably used a map. Maps are an asset used to navigate roads in cities, counties, states, etc. They are useful to get to an area that may not have roads.

Many if not most areas of great rock hounding do not have roads. That's why these great areas are still so great. We use other means to find these locales.

Without roads and or road signs one must resort to other means of navigation. It is important to know exactly where you are in accordance with private and public lands as well as the ever-changing status of BLM land, National Forest, and National Monument boundaries.

One must take time to do the footwork of location and land status before having a fieldtrip. The BLM has always been a main source of information. A County Assessor's office is also a good source to find land status.

Why is it so important? Because of laws that pertain to designated areas of land such as Army Corps of Engineering land, State and National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Parks and mining claims. If you're not aware of exactly where you are, then you may be arrested and fined \$500 dollars a day for collecting in these areas.

CFMS Newsletter, 02/07

Goodnow Slough Mastodon

—By Gilbert Gonzalez

Way back in January of 2000, on a sunny day after a big rain storm, I was out in the rolling hills of Hungry Hollow, a desolate and sparsely populated area five miles north of Capay, formerly Langville. Capay was a camping area for the early white trappers that ventured into Yolo County back in the 1800's.

After checking on how my flock of sheep had weathered the storm that had drenched us for three days, using my Honda three-wheel motorcycle I cruised the fence lines and gulleys for any evil coyotes that may have gotten themselves caught in any of the twenty snares that I had guarding my sheep. Everybody was doing fine and everything looked okay.

It was a nice day to go into Goodnow Slough, which ran through the property where my sheep were spending the winter, to look for coyote tracks and beautiful pieces of petrified wood. The rain always washes out new pieces of petrified wood for me to collect. The agate of the petrified wood is easy to spot after a rain – it shines.

So I was trudging along the bottom of this enchanted area called Goodnow Slough, a geologic fault line. One side is the floor of a small, flat valley that suddenly drops straight off, down 60 feet to the bottom of the slough. I once witnessed a fully grown cow get too close to the edge. The soil gave way and she went down 60 feet and impacted the creek bed; she is now part of the ecosystem at the bottom of the slough. This subterranean area is about 100 feet wide with a small seasonal creek about ten feet wide meandering back and forth in a zig zag pattern through the floor of the slough. As you approach the slough you see the tops of huge fully grown trees that are growing in the wide bottom. When you scramble down the steep sides of the slough you enter a vast ecosystem below ground level. Ancient valley oak trees, huge Manzanita bushes, blue oaks, holly bushes with their bright red berries, jack pines, poison oak (of course), moss, ferns, flowering plants, quail, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, hawks, eagles, owls, song birds, insects, panamint daises, fig trees, salamanders, lizards, kangaroo rats, deer, and snakes are all attracted by the moisture oozing from the soil.

The north bank of the slough is entirely uplifted to bluffs and eroding hillsides about 150 to 200 feet high. This is the boundary of a belt of Pliocene non-marine sediments about 10 miles wide that trends northwestward through the north-central part of Yolo County and a strip about four miles wide extends south along the coast range foothills to the southern border of the county. I believe that this was the coastline 40 to 50 million years ago when the volcanic event occurred that created the conditions to make some of the petrified wood, fossil mammal bones, and marine fossils found in this part of Yolo County. In the western headwaters of Goodnow Slough, I have found fossilized ammonites (marine fossils), but no petrified wood and no fossilized mammal bones.

The sides of the slough were too steep for my motorcycle, so it stayed at ground level while I descended into the cool air below.

As I was trudging along this beautiful natural area in my rubber boots, I found lots of newly exposed pieces of petrified wood. I set the pieces of petrified wood on top of the larger rocks in the creek, so that I can grab them on my way back. I stopped for a smoke and a drink from my trusty canteen. As I sat there quenching my thirst, my attention was drawn to a big hunk of gravel and concrete that I had seen many times before. But the storm run-off water that had washed through the slough and exposed those new pieces of petrified wood had also turned this hunk of rock over, exposing a side that I had not seen before. The part that I thought was concrete was fossil bone of a skull and I could see the zig zag pattern where the parts of the skull had grown together, and I realized that this big hunk was a fossilized skull – the skull of a mastodon. All the gravel that had filled the skull when it was buried was now solid sandstone, about 40% of the fossilized bone is present including the right eye socket and some pieces of bone protruding from the sandstone gravel.

It weighed about 100 pounds. I could not lift it. I was three-quarters of a mile from my motorcycle, but I wanted it. So with great effort, I carefully rolled it up the bank of the small creek, to a spot on the bank about three feet high. At this point I could cradle it in my arms, lift it and carry it. It was so heavy that I could only carry it about 100 feet before I had to set it down on the three foot bank. I was able to move the fossil about half way back to my motorcycle before I ran out of energy and went home for the evening.

I returned the following day and started the slow process of moving this beautiful fossil through the ancient oak trees that lived in this peaceful sub-ground ecosystem. At the end of the second day I had moved my precious heavy fossil to a spot just below where I had parked my motorcycle. But it was 60 feet straight up and I was worn out, so I went home for dinner.

The next day I returned with a strong burlap sack and a shovel. I used the shovel to dig foot holes in the side of the slough and holes to rest the fossil. I finally got that mastodon skull in the sack and started pulling it up the hill. It took a few hours, lots of inch-by-inch pulling and colorful language, but I finally had the fossil next to my motorcycle. It was time for a rest. I struggled to get it up on the foot pedal and rolled it up on the seat of the motorcycle. Yahoo! I started my bike, then climbed aboard and sat on that fat fossil and slowly and carefully rode two bumpy miles back to my trusty, old Chevy pickup truck to head home with my Mastodon fossil skull from Goodnow Slough, Yolo County, California.

The fossil made several trips to *Synder's Pow Wow* mineral show in Valley Springs but has since retired to the peace and quiet of Woodland. The described area of Goodnow Slough is on private property and there is no public access.

Finishing Soapstone: Here is another way of finishing soapstone used by the Chinese. Heat the finished article at 200°F for an hour. Remove from the oven and apply a coat of paste wax. A jade effect results.

Via Breccia 12/06



**Chinese New Year 2007
Year of the Boar**

Chinese New Year in 2007 falls on the 18th of February, 2007. The Chinese New Year is alternately considered the Spring Festival as it is celebrated after the fall harvest and before the spring planting season. The date of the Chinese New Year is always changing and is dependant on the Chinese calendar, a combined solar/lunar calendar, and determined by the date of the new moon (the first day of the new month). The current 60-year cycle in the Chinese calendar started on February 2, 1984.

The rotating cycle of twelve animal signs was a folk method for naming the years in traditional China. The animal signs have an established order and are repeated every twelve years. 2007 is the year of the Boar (pig). It is also known by its former name, *Ding Hai*.

Chinese New Year is the time of the year when folks leave their work and head for their homes to celebrate with those near and dear. But in the midst of celebrations and merriment lie a series of colorful and vivid New Year superstitions. The New Year is also known as *Yuan Tan* by the Chinese, and literally means "let bygones be bygones". Preparations begin a month ahead of time as a huge clean-up is done of homes and businesses. Folks clean house and sweep away the dust of the year gone by; they also often give doors and window panes a new coat of red paint as the color red is considered lucky and is believed to scare away the evil. The New Year is a time to settle old debts, as it is believed that if a debtor has not paid by the New Year, he and his family will be shamed.

Beliefs tell of the Chinese New Year god ascending to heaven on the eve of the New Year to pay respects and report on household chores to the Jade Emperor, the supreme Taoist deity. Many

Chinese stay awake all night on New Year's Eve in the belief that it will help their aged parents live a longer and healthier life; it is therefore a common practice to keep the lights on the entire night. Customs conclude New Years ceremonies with a huge barrage of firecrackers to scare away evil.

Other traditions include flowers – usually plum blossoms, standing for courage and hope, and water narcissus, signifying good luck and fortune. Red *Lai-See* (also called *Hong-Bao*) envelopes containing money are given to children and young adults, much in the spirit as Christmas presents. The single word, *fook* or *fu*, meaning fortune, is a lucky character that is often displayed in homes and stores, usually written by brush on a diamond-shaped piece of red paper. Additionally, spring couplets are also traditionally written with black ink on red paper and hung in storefronts in the month before the Chinese New Year expressing good wishes and fortune for the coming year. Tangerines and oranges are often displayed in homes and stores as symbols of good luck and wealth.



'Fu' - the Chinese word for "luck".

Save some of your shopping for later in the year as buying some things at this time of year can be considered bad luck. Buying shoes, a homonym for the word "rough" in Cantonese, is bad luck; as is buying a new pair of pants, a homonym for the word "bitter". As hair is a homonym for the word "prosperity", cutting your hair at this time of the year could be perceived as "cutting your prosperity away". Buying books, a homonym for the word "lose", is also not a smart thing to do now. Instead, eat some candy as it will ensure you a "sweet" year, and open the doors and windows to "bring in" the good luck of the New Year.

Research via <http://www.123chinesenewyear.com/>, www.Chinapage.com, and www.en.wikipedia.com.

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Petrified Lightning

—By Crystal Friedrichs

Petrified lightning is a fanciful name for sand fulgurites, which are created when lightning strikes soil that has a sufficient sand and moisture content. As a lightning bolt sears downward, it vaporizes the sand in its path and melts the perimeter sand into fused quartz. The result is a hollow, glassy tube in the exact shape of the lightning bolt with rough particles of quartz sand adhering to the outside. The varietal name is *Lechatelierite Var. Fulgarite*, but petrified lightning sums up the visual effect rather well. If you ever wanted to hold a piece of lightning without getting shocked, this may be the way to go.

The lightning creates a replica of itself, from straight bolts to creations that look like the roots of trees. Yet finding a sand fulgurite is not easy. All that shows on the surface is a small glassy spot, easily covered by wind with sand or other matter. Since they are glass, most fulgurites are damaged in the process of being uncovered. Some collapse before they are ever discovered from the sheer weight of the sand around them. Sometimes the wind helps by blowing the sand to uncover these glassy tubes. Darwin found a cluster of four tubes sticking above the sand on a dune on the coast of Ecuador and was able to recognize them.

Fulgurites reportedly were first discovered in 1706 in Germany. Since then scientists have experimented with creating their own. A risky business – better not try this at home. A safer way may be to see if we can generate enough interest in the subject to have a display at our next show. Maybe some dealers would have samples of fulgurite for us to buy. I know I'll want some!

www.sacmineralsociety.org

Check out the SMS Website!!

We've been working diligently to clean-up and update the SMS website over the past few months. The format has been tidied up to make each page consistent, information about upcoming meetings, offerings and events is more current, and there's more coming!

We'd especially like to bring our "Show and Tell" pages up to date and display some items more recently created by our members. Everybody has at least one thing they've made that they're proud of and they like to show off... so do it on a larger scale and share it with everyone who visits our web site. Photos and a description of your item – how you made it, where you found it, etc. – can be emailed to the editor/webmaster at sms-editor@pacbell.net, or we can arrange to have a photo taken of your item; just drop me a line or call me at (916) 451-4806 to let me know a good time to take the photo.

More helpful information for the "Tips" pages of the site is wanted as well. There are so many members with minds full of useful help and info that our members and other visitors to our site would find useful. Have an unusual technique for cabbng an oddly-shaped stone? How about defining the different types of fuel used in metalsmith work? Do you have a useful cleaner for specimens you acquire? These are just a few ideas for items you might explain to others. Forward your ideas or suggestions (or finished articles) to the editor/webmaster at the above address or phone or contact **Tarance Beguhl** at (916) 519-2590 or at t1beagle@aol.com. We'd love to add it to our pages!

And if there's something you'd like to see added to the web site, please be sure and let us know. The site is "out there" to help others discover us, but we'd like it to be a tool and source of information for our current members as well. Your input is important to make the site the best it can be!

We're Going On a Trip...

*We're going on a trip,
so let the faucet drip.
We won't see weeds growing,
not where we're going.
We'll forget winter bills
as we head for the hills,
The hassles of work will be far from our minds.
And soon we'll be thrilled by our pretty rock finds.
There are hills red, tan and gold;
every one beautiful to behold.
Big mountains and little flowers.
We've come to enjoy them for hours and hours.
Billboards, TV, distractions and chaos
--all left behind.
We've got a goal: to seek and to find.
Spotted lizards and "horny toads" greet us;
We stare at each other (in the same way)
Another good memory of this day.
We smell sage and sweet air
So who's got a care?
We hear coyotes yipping, soft breezes skipping,
and the powerful, peaceful silence
of the land itself.
These canyons and ravines are full of surprises.
Only good things are on these horizons.
God's hand has been here
He's arranged the land and the stars,
The cactus and sandbars.
How do you measure such treasure?
We came on this trip (and let the faucet drip).
We did the right thing, for now our hearts sing!*

*Dedicated to all my fellow rockhounds.
-- Diane Baczewski, 2007*

Mother Lode Mineral Society's
Annual
ROCK & GEM SHOW
MARCH 10 & 11TH

- Dinosaur & Fossil Exhibits
- Speakers
- Kids Activities
- Gem & Mineral Dealers
- Camping
- Great Food



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For more info:
www.motherlodemineralsociety.com
Contact: Bud & Terry McMillin 209-524-3494




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In Remembrance...

Duane Seeley Robinson, a previous member of the SMS, passed away on January 17, 2007. Born in 1914 in Portland, Oregon, he served in the Army during WWII then worked at the *Sacramento Bee* as a graphic artist for 25 years. He retired to pursue his many hobbies, including growing rare fruits, jewelry making, painting and philosophizing. He moved to Pismo Beach to build a home on the ocean where he resided with his wife, Bertha, for 20 years before moving back to Sacramento. Duane was married for 63 years, had three children, and seven grandchildren. Remembrances can be made to hospice or to a charity of your choice.

Arthur H. Green was last a member of the SMS in 2003. Born in Oakland in 1915, he passed away on January 10, 2007 at his home in Carmichael. Arthur was a longtime active member of Arden Christian Church, SIRS, the Fresno and Sacramento Mineral Societies (past president), and the Masons. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1938 with a degree in civil engineering and worked for *CalTrans* for 38 years, having designed the first rural "freeway" in California. He was a retired Navy Lt. Commander and a veteran of WWII. His hobbies including rockhounding, skin-diving, traveling, studying all animal life, gardening, and helping others. Donations of remembrance may be made to Arden Christian Church or a charity of your choice.

Business Meeting Agenda for February 8, 2007

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

Old Business

- Clubhouse phone/internet connection
- Scholarship funding
- Chair/Committee appointments and responsibilities.
- Follow-up of Tenant’s Meeting; possible formation of an SMS Relocation Committee
- New locks and keys

New Business

- November show
- Educational Meeting topics
- Other

Thank You!

To Katerina Beguhl for donating her Memorex Karaoke machine to the club. The microphone will be a helpful addition to our meetings and events.

WD-40. Well, Who Knew...?

I had a neighbor who had bought a new pickup. I got up very early one Sunday morning and saw that someone had spray painted red all around the sides of this beige truck (for some unknown reason). I went over, woke him up, and told him the bad news. He was very upset and was trying to figure out what to do probably nothing until Monday morning, since nothing was open. Another neighbor came out and told him to get his WD-40 and clean it off. It removed the unwanted paint beautifully and did not harm his paint job that was on the truck. I'm impressed! WD-40 who knew?

Water Displacement #40. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the *San Diego Rocket Chemical Company*. Its name comes from the project that was to find a "water displacement" compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. *The Corvair Company* bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

Here are some of the uses:

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- Gives floors a 'just-waxed' sheen without making it slippery.
- Keeps flies off cows.
- Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- Removes lipstick stains.
- Loosens stubborn zippers.
- Untangles jewelry chains.
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
- Removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor! Use WD-40 for those nasty tar and scuff marks on flooring. It doesn't seem to harm the finish and you don't have to scrub nearly as hard to get them off. Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
- Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly! Use WD-40!
- Gives a child's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers.
- Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.

- Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
- Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
- Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
- Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- Keeps rust from forming on saws, saw blades, and other tools.
- Removes splattered grease on stove.
- Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
- Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- Removes all traces of duct tape.
- Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
- Florida's favorite use is: "cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers."
- New York state's favorite use is to protect the Statue of Liberty from the elements.
- WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. It's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose. Keep in mind that using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some states.
- Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
- WD-40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
- If you've discovered that your teenage daughter has washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and re-wash. Presto! Lipstick is gone!
- Spray WD-40 on a distributor cap to displace moisture and allow a car to start.
- Keep a can of WD-40 in the kitchen. It is good for oven burns or any other type of burn. It takes the burned feeling away and heals with no scarring.

P.S. The basic ingredient is FISH OIL.

Via email from John Szabo, 1/23/07

VALLEJO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale

Saturday, March 17, 10-5 & Sunday March 18, 10-5

~BEADS~ DEALERS~CRYSTALS~ EXHIBITS~
~OPAL~ JADE~ FOSSILS~FLOURESCENT DISPLAY~

~ DOOR PRIZE ~ SILENT AUCTION ~
~ "WHEEL" OF FORTUNE ~

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SMS Calendar

All events held at the SMS clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

February

- 8th—Thursday *Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!*
- 10th—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
Caged Crystal, \$7.00 + materials fee
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*
- 15th—Thursday *2007 Show Meeting, 6:30 p.m.*
- 15th—Thursday *Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Topic TBD*
- 24th—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
Earrings, \$7.00 + materials fee
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

March

- 8th—Thursday *Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!*
- 10th—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*
- 15th—Thursday *2007 Show Meeting, 6:30 p.m.*
- 15th—Thursday *Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Topic TBD*
- 24th—Saturday *Wire Wrap Study Group with Kevin Beguhl
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee*

**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 by the 25th of the month for display in the next issue of *The Matrix*.

LOOKING TO BUY: Old Jade Books. Contact Stan Heneman by email at Lakota27@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (916) 363-5011. Will return all inquiries. Or you can contact him in person most any Wednesday or Saturday at the clubhouse/shop.

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.

Lockers Available in the Shop for personal storage of tools and items you are working on. Stop carrying all your projects from home to the shop and back again. Locker rentals are \$10.00 per year, payable to the Shop Steward of the day. Supply your own lock.—And for those of you who currently have a locker from 2006, please remember that rental fees are now due for 2007. Again, pay your rental fee to the Shop Steward of the day. Thank you.

* CRYSTALS * JEWELRY * MINERALS * BEADS * FOSSILS * GEMSTONES

45th Annual

Gem and Mineral Show

Roseville Rock Rollers
Gem and Mineral Society



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Drilling Holes In Stone

If you have a drill press, you can drill holes by using a nail or piece of tubing as a bit and some abrasive grit as the cutting media. It's worked fine for the author, even better than diamond bits for small holes. Here is the sequence:

1. Fix a piece to a scrap of wood with wax or glue.
2. Clamp the wood to a drill press so the bit is properly positioned to drill the hole.
3. Build a dam around the hole with modeling clay so you can keep water in the hole at all times.
4. Sprinkle a little 100-200 grit in the hole.
5. Drill with light pressure.
6. Raise the drill out of the hole every twenty seconds or so to let water and grit reach the bottom of the hole.
7. Add more abrasive grit as needed.
8. As you reach the bottom of the hole, be careful to ease up on the pressure or you will chip the surface near the exit hole.

From Brad Smith on LA-Rocks via the Agatizer 05/03

CO-OP

www.coop.5u.com

Field Trips

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. Additional information may be obtained on the CO-OP web site.

Saturday, February 17 **Bear River Campground, Colfax, CA** for gold and gold panning. Sponsored by the *Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society*, member's guests are allowed with proof of liability insurance. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the campground. Picnic tables and restrooms are available. Be prepared for cool weather and dress accordingly. Rain will cancel the trip. Bring gold pans if you have them, a small bottle for your gatherings, and a small shovel and rock pick. Contact trip leader, Tony Kampitch, at (530) 432-2426 in advance to let him know you will be attending. More information and directions are available from the trip leader or by visiting the CO-OP website.

Geology and Mining History Field Trips

Sponsored by Bureau of Land Management and Buena Vista Museum of Natural History

The Bureau of Land Management and Buena Vista Museum of Natural History have initiated a program of earth science field trips to points of mineralogic, geologic, paleontologic and historic interest throughout central California. These trips are designed for persons of high school age and older. It is not necessary to have a technical background to attend or benefit from the trips. These field trips are recommended for teachers and many of them can be taken for in service continuing education credit through California State University Bakersfield. Each trip includes a full spectrum of environmental and land management topics. A field guide is prepared for some of the field trips which include maps and directions which can be used by anyone for self guided investigation of the geology along the field trip route.

California is ever-changing. The Geology Field Trip Program explores the changes that have occurred throughout California's complex and fascinating geologic history and focuses on the human interaction with this geology over the past 150 years. Since the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, the landscape of California has never been the same. We live in an environment today with a range of social issues that are directly linked to our geologic past. Symposia and field trips of this interpretive outdoor program are designed to bring this message to residents of all parts of California.

The following trips are currently scheduled for 2007:

March 22-24, 2007: Owens Valley-Mono Basin – Water management, historic mining, glacial and volcanic geology are the main topics of this field trip. Stops or topics of discussion include Cinder Hill, Owens Lake, Alabama Hills, Mazourka Canyon, American Perlite Mine, Tinnemaha Reservoir, June Lake, Devil's Post Pile, Inyo Craters, Mono Lake, Bode State Park and Travertine Hot Springs. We camp at Red Rock Canyon Friday Night and at Bishop on Saturday night.

May 11-13, 2007: Mother Lode III: Northern Mines – This 3-day field conference looks at the structure, stratigraphy and geo-

logic history of the Northern Mines of the Mother Lode in Sierra and Plumas Counties. Friday's trip will be from Camptonville to Taylorsville by way of La Porte. Saturday's trip will be from Taylorsville to Downieville by way of the Walker Mine. Sunday's trip will be from Downieville to Grass Valley. There will be a Friday Evening Lecture at the Taylorsville Town Hall, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

September 29-30, 2007: San Andreas Fault: Hollister to Carrizo Plain – This 2-day field conference examines the segment of the San Andreas Fault between Hollister and Wallace Creek in the Carrizo Plain. On Saturday the field trip commences in Hollister. We will hike the Pinnacles at the National Monument and explore the hot springs near Coalinga. The day ends with a tour of the Baker Oil Museum. Saturday evening we will camp in Coalinga. On Sunday we go on to Parkfield, "Earthquake Capitol of the World", look at fault scarps in Cholame Valley, and end the day at Wallace Creek, a world-famous off-set steam that is shown in all geology textbooks.

Visit the BLM web site at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/geologytrips.html>. The Buena Vista Museum of Natural History web site is at <http://www.sharktoothhill.com>. Make your reservations for each field trip with the co-sponsoring organization noted in the field trip descriptions and pay your fees to those organizations, not BVMNH. If you have any questions about registering for a field trip, contact Gregg Wilkerson at (661) 391-6081 or contact the Museum directly at (661) 324-6350. Call for the most recent dates and schedule as sometimes dates of the trips need to be changed. Participants should bring a sack lunch and plenty of water.

For BMNH records, insurance coverage and coordination, you should fill out the BVMNH registration form found at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/bakersfield/georeservationform.htm>. You will be asked to sign a "Hold Harmless" agreement before the field trip begins.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact Dr. Gregg Wilkerson at 661-391-6081 or at gwilk@blm.gov.

Information obtained from: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/bakersfield/geologytrips.html>, published June 2006; edited slightly for publication.

Upcoming Shows & Events

- Feb. 16-25 **Indio, CA.** *San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society.* Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1, 46-350 Arabia Street. Hours: 10-10. Bert Grisham (916) 849-1674.
- Feb. 24-25 **Antioch, CA.** *Antioch Lapidary Club.* Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Flower Building. West 106th and L Streets. Hours: 10-5 both days. Ellen Bauer (925) 458-2539, ebaur_lapidary@yahoo.com. www.antiochlapidary.tripod.com.
- March 2-4 **Hayward, CA.** *Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley.* Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Hours: Fri. & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Larry Ham (510) 887-9007, email: info@mgscv.org.
- March 2-11 **Imperial, CA.** *Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society's "60th Annual Gem & Mineral Show".* California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri-Sun. 12-10, Mon-Fri. 4-10. Paul Steward (760) 355-1888.
- March 3-4 **Ventura, CA.** *Ventura Gem & Mineral Society's "The Ventura Gem Show".* Gems, minerals, lapidary arts and fossils. Seaside Park – Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Ed Clark (805) 983-0028, email: clarkoe@adelphia.net.
- March 3-4 **Arcadia, CA.** *Monrovia Rockhounds.* Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Hours: 9-4:30. Jo Anna Ritchey j.ritchey@verizon.net. Website: www.moroks.com.
- March 10-11 **Escondido, CA.** *Palomar Gem & Mineral Club.* Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Matt Boeck (760) 216-8971. Email: mkboeck@hotmail.com. Website: www.palomargem.org.
- March 10-11 **Spreckles, CA.** *Salinas Valley Rock & Gem.* Veteran's Memorial Hall, 5th and Llano Streets. Jim Bassett (831) 758-5830. Email: jbmssc@sbcglobal.net.
- March 10-11 **Turlock, CA.** *Mother Lode Mineral Society.* Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Hours: 10-5. Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494, email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com.
- March 10-11 **Vallejo, CA.** *Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society.* Solano County Fairgrounds, I-80 at Hwy 37, County Bldg. Hours: 10-5 both days. Phyllis Malicki (707) 745-3255.
- March 16-18 **San Bernardino, CA.** *Orange Belt Mineralogical Society.* Western Regional League Ballpark, 6707 Little League Drive. Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-4. Al Carrell (951) 961-5988, Emma Rose (951) 288-6182, Lyle (Pappy) (909) 887-3394.
- March 23-25 **Bakersfield, CA.** *San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society's 5th Annual Rock & Mineral Rendezvous.* Indoor/outdoor tailgate. Kern County Fairgrounds, Hours: Fri. 9-8, Sat. & Sun. 9-5. Lewis Helfrich (661) 872-8230 or 323-2663.
- March 24-25 **Angels Camp, CA.** *Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society's Jump for the Gold Gem & Jewelry Show.* Hwy 49. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Tom Reeves (209) 754-4863. Email: star@volcano.net.
- March 24-25 **Roseville, CA.** *Roseville Rock Rollers.* Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Jim Hutchings (530) 367-5108. Email: rockrollers@hotmail.com. Website: www.rockrollers.com.
- March 31 – April 1 **Torrance, CA.** *South Bay Lapidary Mineral Society.* Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Leslie Neff (310) 318-2170. Email: lesneff@aol.com. Website: www.palosverdes.com/sblap.
- 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 Spring, 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 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.
- 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 Gem & 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, NM 88201, (505) 622-6430, fax (505) 623-7631. Show: June 7-10, Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 North Main Street, Roswell.



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

The Matrix

February 2007



Join us for the first

2007 Show Meeting

Thursday, February 15th, 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

(One hour before the Educational Meeting.)

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and let's start planning
For the best show in SMS history!

2007 SMS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE.

Please make payment as soon as possible by mailing your dues to:

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

Payment may also be made to the Shop Steward of the day or at the Educational Meeting.
