



The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the
Sacramento Mineral Society
Sacramento, California

SMS

February 2006
Volume 66, No. 2

Beginning Mineralogy Class

Dan Brown surprised the club at the January Educational Meeting by announcing his intention to conduct a Beginner's Mineralogy course at the SMS clubhouse. A \$6.00 fee will be charged for each class and the funds garnered will be applied not only to acquiring the tools used in the class, but will also contribute to the Club's General Fund. Depending on how much money is acquired, the plan is to get several sets of hardness picks and at least one Specific Gravity testing apparatus.

Firm dates for the classes have yet to be selected, but they will likely begin in late February or early March, continuing through June, most likely on a Wednesday or a Saturday. Each class will be two hours long and will consist of an hour lecture followed by an hour of hands-on lab time. If interest is high and more than 20 sign-ups are received, two classes may run concurrently (possibly falling on both Wednesdays and Saturdays); the preference is to keep class size in a range of 10-15 participants per session.

The following items will be required for the classes: notebook, 8 1/2" x 11" loose leaf binder (for handouts), pen and pencil, 10x hand lens, pocket knife, copper penny, quartz specimen, small porcelain tile square, small bottle/vial of white vinegar, eye dropper, and a small magnet. Optional items you might find handy: pocket microscope, hardness kit, Specific Gravity Tester, *Rocks and Minerals of California* by Vinson Brown & David Allan, rock hammer, glass pocket mirror or compact mirror, and any specimens you wish to identify or experiment upon. A limited number of these items will be available to share at the initial class, and sources for the optional items will be discussed.

Sign-ups began the evening of the announcement and are still being accepted. To register your interest, contact Dan Brown by phone at (209) 296-6466, by email at danbrown@volcano.net, or by U.S. mail at P.O. Box 664, Pioneer, CA 95666-0664. You can also sign-up at the next Educational Meeting on February 16th. Be sure to let Dan know on what day you'd prefer to attend.

February Educational Meeting: Flint Napping by Harrison Jack

Flint napping is the ancient art form of making stone tools. All of our early ancestors depended on flint napping for their livelihood. Early man made tools from flint and other minerals in order to help provide themselves with the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing.

The art of napping has been handed down over generations, and there are many materials that were utilized by primitive man in crafting these projectile points and blades. To learn the art of napping is to share the same techniques used by the earliest humans.

Join us at the February Educational Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15th, to learn more about the art of flint napping during a presentation by Harrison Jack.

And remember — bring your cash for the Silent Auction!

Last Call for 2006 Dues!

Membership dues for 2006 are now due. According to the club's by-laws, if your membership is not renewed by the end of February, you will be dropped from the membership rolls and your name will not appear in the SMS Membership Roster for 2006. Additionally, this will be your last copy of *The Matrix* if dues are not current by the end of the month. Remember that your dues must be current before you may use the shop facilities.

Annual dues are \$30.00 per calendar year. Please make your check payable to "SMS" and mail it to: Sacramento Mineral Society, P.O. Box 160544, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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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

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.

President's Message

Hello Members and Prospective Members!

Well, we are into the new year and February is here. As a club, we are moving right along with improvements. We are in the process of cleaning and doing maintenance and repair in the saw room of the shop. I want to thank Jim Foskett, Kevin Beguhl, Joy Fergoda and Mike Hunnerlach for helping with the maintenance.

We will be starting on the 30" saw repair and improvement after we finish the saw room maintenance. I also want to thank Stan Henneman and Frank Fawcett for working in the shop and organizing it. We had a committee meeting with Les Clark, Stan Henneman, Ron Shimazu, Carl Zimmerman, Frank Fawcett and Joy Fergoda so we could outline what our plans were for organizing the shop area and the grounds; Frank Fawcett made notes of what we talked about. Thanks to all!!

Remember, we will drop your name from our mailing list as a non-member if we don't have a membership renewal by the end of February.

We will update everybody with where we are on the November show in March.

Happy Rock Hunting!

—Sheldon Shuper

2006 Show Update

Since no one has stepped up to volunteer to chair the 2006 SMS Gem & Mineral Show, President Sheldon Shuper will take on the title of Coordinator for the event. He will of course, still be asking for help from the membership to organize various tasks. By breaking the work down to smaller elements, the hope is that more people will be willing to help out not only at show time, but in planning and organizing the event.

Help will be needed in at least four areas and Sheldon hopes to find volunteers to lead each task. Linda Baglin has already volunteered to lead the kitchen assignment and will plan and organize the food selections and recruit volunteers to assist with preparation and sales.

Other specialty areas where Lead Workers are needed are in set-up functions, take-down, and general daily SMS representatives during the show that will make announcements and handle the raffles. The Society will also need people to help in contacting and coordinating dealers, and recruiting those willing to display or demonstrate during the show.

Historically, members have always been willing to help by manning various tables during the event, but don't sign up until just before show time. Your Club needs you to dedicate yourselves early to help in any area you can. Remember, the show is our biggest money-maker of the year and we rely heavily on the earnings to keep our club functioning. Contact Sheldon at (916) 383-9153 to let him know where you can help.

2006 Board Members

President: Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153
Vice President: Carl Zimmerman (916) 739-1279
Secretary: Carolyn Davis (916) 482-1345
Treasurer: OPEN
Federation Director: Barbara Foskett (916) 685-4111
Editor: Kris Jarusevicius (916) 451-4806
Past President: Les Clark (916) 421-4752
Directors 2006-2007: Linda Baglin (916) 685-8132
Dixie Christenson (916) 455-0421
Lana Paulhamus (916) 372-5117
Directors 2005-2007: Mike Hunerlach (916) 989-4653
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Committees and Chairs

By-Laws: Sheldon Shuper
Barbara Foskett
Les Clark
Display: Carl Zimmerman
Field Trip Coordinator: Rolf Zschoernig
Shop Foreman: Mike Hunnerlach
Groundskeeper: Carl Zimmerman
Shop Advisor: Stan Henneman
Juniors: OPEN
Greeters: Linda Baglin
Sheldon Shuper
Scholarship: Lisa Hammersley
Mike Hunerlach
Sheldon Shuper
Librarian/Historian: Frank Fawcett
Membership: Barbara Foskett
Webmaster: Tarance & Kevin Beguhl
Mailing: Tony and Millie Ivanovich
2006 Show: Sheldon Shuper
Advertising: Janice Marzolf
Publicity: OPEN
Mineral Collection: OPEN

Happy Birthday to All February Babies! February's Birthstone: Amethyst



Amethyst is the most highly valued stone in the quartz group and ranges in color from pale lavender to rich violet; intense violet-colored stones are the most sought after. Treatment by heat can alter the color to a light yellow, red-brown, green, or even

leave it colorless. Some stones lose their color in daylight, but the original color can be restored by x-ray radiation.

The best deposits of Amethyst are in Brazil, Uruguay and Zambia, but the rich violet specimens are mined in Siberia. The rougher Amethyst quartz is layered and striped with milky quartz. This variety is mostly found in Brazil, Nambia and in the U.S., and is often confused with striped fluorite.

Since antiquity, Amethyst has been regarded as the stone of spirituality and psychic empowerment. It is said to have many supernatural powers: it brings luck, ensures constancy, and protects against magic. It has been considered to be a charm against death, and is said to change color in the presence of oncoming danger. It deflects negative energies, relaxes the mind and nervous system and alleviates stress and anxiety. It brings peace and understanding and is a symbol of calmness. It is said to clear stress from the system and improve mental powers, creativity and memory.

Some believe that Amethyst can boost the production of hormones in the body and balance the supply of endocrine, improving the body's immune system. It is commonly used as an elixir for treating bone-related diseases and joint pains, and can be used to fight toothache and digestive troubles, heart disorders, and hearing disparities. It is aid to improve blood circulation and balance blood sugar.

The Greek word means "*not drunken*"; consequently, the stone has been worn as an amulet against drunkenness and ancient cups and goblets were often carved completely from Amethyst for that reason. Some claim it is aid for those struggling against alcohol addiction and other forms of cravings and compulsive disorders.

A tale in Greek mythology speaks of the origin of the stone. Dionysus (Bacchus), the god of wine and celebration, during a fit of rage created a vicious tiger to take revenge on the next mortal to cross his path. The innocent who next came his way was a maiden named Amethyst. In order to protect her from the tiger, the Goddess Diana transformed Amethyst into the purest form of crystalline quartz. When Dionysus beheld the incredibly beautiful statue, he shed tears of deep purple wine that stained the quartz and gave it its attractive color.

In the middle ages, Roman Catholic bishops wore amethyst rings, giving rise to the stone's use as a sign of sobriety and celibacy. Tibetan monks used Amethysts in their rosaries to



Letter From Manti

Well, as I had hoped, I managed to find a ride to Quartzsite. Almost. On Friday the 13th, I left the area hidden in the back of a motor home. The day was foggy with some areas of sunshine as we headed south on Highway 99. We rolled along quite well with stops for their dog, lunch, and gasoline. As we headed east on Highway 58 the sun appeared in all its glory and the traffic settled down to an acceptable pace. We began the climb to Tehachipi and the dog began feeling uncomfortable. It may have been the climb to 4000 feet at the summit of the Tehachipi mountains. We dropped down into Mohave and the dog began to feel better. They stopped at a rock shop in Boron and the man bought a piece of ulexite to make a sphere. We arrived in Barstow and stopped at Diamond Pacific to drop off the SMS Genie that needed some attention. I was really having a great time with all the beautiful sunlight and warmth.

That evening the woman became ill so the decision was made to return to Sacramento. They got up early on Saturday morning so a stop could be made at Diamond Pacific to check on the Genie. They arrived at 8:30 a.m. and upon seeing only one car in the lot the thought was, "Oh, my, are they open on Saturday?" The sign on the door said they opened at 9:00 a.m. Just then Beth, one of the owners, came out and let the couple in early. Diamond Pacific has quite a nice display and selection of rock related items. The books they have are attractively displayed with selections that make you want one of each. They have some rough rock and many beautiful finished rings, necklaces, and earrings. In addition, you can purchase items that are in their catalog. The show room has many pieces of one of a kind items. The couple purchased several items and we were on our return trip. Next year I hope that I catch a ride with someone who makes it to Quartzsite.

Love,
~Manti

New Members

Please welcome Donna Haselow and Kala Taylor as new members to the Sacramento Mineral Society. Both ladies were voted in as members at the January Business Meeting. Welcome!

(February Birthstone, cont.)

ward off evil or negative forces and the gemstone was considered sacred to the Buddha. It is said that Leonardo da Vinci believed the stone protected him from evil thoughts and stimulated his intellect. It is also associated with Saint Valentine as a symbol of pure love, chastity, temperance and faithfulness.

Business Meeting Minutes—January 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by President, Sheldon Shuper. There were eight board members present and six visitors. Secretary, Carolyn Davis, was not present and Kris J. volunteered to take notes in her place.

A synopsis of the December Business Meeting minutes was read by Sheldon Shuper via *The Matrix*. When addressing the topic of acquiring additional advertising for *The Matrix*, it was decided that topic would be deferred until someone is appointed to handle publicity. It was noted that some new Shop Stewards have been added. With no other comments or corrections noted, the minutes were approved as read.

Current Treasurer, Stan Henneman, reviewed the club's state of finances and presented an income and expense statement through January 12, 2006. The club is currently ahead although it is expected that will change as we will need to spend more money on lapidary supplies. Stan stated he will continue to act as Treasurer only to the end of January.

Visitors for the evening were recognized and shared information about themselves. The visitors included Richard and CJ Spradlin, Gloria Marsh, Janice Marzolf, Vi de Cou and Frank Fawcett.

Communications: Sheldon shared a letter presented to him by a few members citing specific issues that need to be addressed immediately, as well as other suggestions for the betterment of the club. Some of the items addressed in the letter are as follows:

- Rebuilding the 30" saw. Sheldon confirmed that plans to rebuild the saw are being addressed and volunteers are being recruited to begin the project. A total of \$195.00 in donations has been collected from the membership to pay for the project; the Board has also approved an additional sum up to \$400.00. As President, Sheldon will oversee the repair of the saw and will submit a report at every board meeting until the machine has been repaired.
- Need for a Meeting Room Custodian. Joy Fergoda has volunteered for this position. Purchase of a new vacuum for the clubhouse is being considered. Jim Foskett is donating a shop vac.
- Appointment by the President of a Shop Advisor to create a shop manual and to oversee the use of equipment, including enforcing the use of the machine list that requires each user to sign out for a machine. Stan Henneman has volunteered for this position. Stan, as well as Judd Darling, Richard Spradlin and Carl Zimmerman, will comprise the committee to assess maintenance and repair needs of the shop equipment on an on-going basis.
- Slab saws. It was agreed that use and maintenance of the slab saws was a "specialty" that shall be limited to a few knowledgeable members. The current Saw Shop volunteers are Les Clark, Stan Henneman Kevin Beguhl, Ron Shimazu and Richard Spradlin; additional members shall be trained to increase the number of cutters. All saws shall receive an initial service followed by a regular schedule of cleaning and oil

replacement approximately every three months.

- Maintenance of the interior of the trailer. Carl Zimmerman, Stan Henneman and Frank Fawcett have volunteered.
- A Groundskeeper is needed. Carl Z. has also volunteered.
- Creation and upkeep of a specialty file listing SMS members proficient in various skills (lapidary and otherwise) to be used to draw upon when expertise is needed or for educational purposes. Kris J. was appointed to create the file.

Barbara Foskett, Sheldon Shuper and Richard Spradlin are still working on reports for the new Treasurer. Barbara and Sheldon have also reviewed and made a few changes to the club by-laws.

Some committee positions still need to be filled. Especially needed are two co-chairpersons for the 2006 show. The Publicity position is also still open. Janice Marzolf has volunteered to fill the Advertising position to assist in promoting the club. It was again noted that a new Treasurer is still needed. An announcement for all these positions will be made at the Educational Meeting on January 19th.

New Business:

New members Donna Haselow and Kala Taylor were approved for membership. Carl Zimmerman has agreed to deliver the new member packets at the Educational Meeting since Barbara will be unavailable that evening.

New CFMS insurance coverage was discussed; it was noted that the President needs to sign a statement of coverage and responsibility. Barbara indicated that the AFMS had requested updated Board and committee member names and she has provided them that information; she also indicated that the total count of membership for 2005 was 177 members.

Sheldon asked that any Board member unable to attend a Board Meeting contact him in advance.

Carl Zimmerman will present the first Educational Meeting of the year on January 19th giving a general talk about the current status of the SMS. The evening will also contain our first Rock Auction and Lottery. Anyone that would like to donate items for the monthly auction should notify Carl.

The Society will host or participate in the following functions in 2006: the *Gem Fair* at Cal Expo in April, followed by an Open House/BBQ at the clubhouse the weekend afterwards; *Snyder's PowWow* in May; the *Gem Fair* at the Scottish Rite Temple in August, and an Open House/Tailgate BBQ on the SMS grounds on the last Saturday in August; the annual show will once again be during Veteran's Day weekend in November; and the SMS holiday dinner and installation of officers will be held in December in lieu of the Educational Meeting. It was suggested that members keep an eye out for a new restaurant for this event that has a separate meeting room and a dinner price of around \$12.00 per person.

In order to open up space in the shop, Stan Henneman and Frank Fawcett made a motion that the SMS should get rid of some surplus equipment. The motion was approved by the Board and an ad will be placed in *The Matrix* to offer some items

(Continued on page 5)

(January Board Meeting, continued from page 4)

for sale to SMS members.

It was noted that the CFMS director's insurance policy currently covers the Treasurer up to \$10,000.00. This will satisfy the need to have the Treasurer bonded. Stan will bring this information to the next meeting.

Richard Spradlin shared some personal observations he and his wife recently made as to the clubhouse/shop, including the fact that the shop needs heat, has inadequate fire extinguishers, and that the first aid kits are difficult to locate. He also feels that an improved format for teaching beginners in the shop was needed. He also indicated that the Shop Stewards did not appear to follow the same rules and procedures and suggested that new members should all go through an orientation program before being allowed to use the shop machines.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

~Kris J.

(Seeing the length of this report, we might not want to ask Kris to cover the Secretary's job again! — Sorry folks!)

6th Annual Petrified Wood Identification Seminar

Lecturer: Walt Wright, Paleobotanist

March 17-19, 2006

Sierra College, Room 101, Sewell Hall, Rocklin, CA

This intensive two and one-half day seminar will emphasize actual identification of petrified wood, with samples drawn from Walt Wright's extensive collection as well as from those brought by participants. Each participant may bring three pieces for identification by Walt.

Each participant should plan on bringing a good 10X or 20X magnifying lens and copies of the following books: *Common Fossil Plants of Western North America*, 2nd Edition, William D. Tidwell, and *Identifying Wood: Accurate Results With Simple Tools* by R. Bruce Hoadley. Limited quantities of these books as well as other books on the topic of Petrified Wood will be available for purchase at the seminar.

The seminar schedule will be Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Beverage, light snacks, lunches on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Saturday are included.

Seminar Fee is \$75.00. Non-participants may purchase meal tickets for \$25.00. Registration forms may be obtained by contacting *Fossils For Fun* at: fossilsforfun@hotmail.com or Debbie Bunn, (916) 929-6665 or Carole Lockhart (916) 638-2314.

There is much to learn about Petrified Wood – more than can be covered in just one seminar. Each of Walt's seminars is a little different, and each one contributes more to your understanding. So plan on attending even if you have attended prior seminars and improve your knowledge of this fascinating subject.

Fast Start In Silver Casting Follow-up

By Ten Yuzuk

SMS completed its first class in Wax and Casting. The participants were enthusiastic during the three Saturdays for a total of 12 hours. We covered a variety of wax techniques, using the matting gun to basic carving etc. Specific tools used in the wax casting process were experienced. I felt learning took place, but also that individuals need to learn a lot more before they can operate in a casting environment. The participants and non participants provided lots of good feedback on what they would like to see in the class. So there is work to be done in this area. The goal is to have each student model their wax, sprue, invest, cast and polish. This is very doable, but will require a greater commitment time wise.

We learned what equipment we have and don't have for future casting. I hope to help in the resolution of these concerns. In addition to thanking the participants for their efforts, I want to thank Richard Spradlin for his assistance. I also want to thank Sharon Speuer's husband for the loan of his torches and getting them recharged for us, and lastly, Judson Darling for his help in the casting process.

A Participant's Point of View...

I was one of the lucky few who were able to participate in the first Silver Casting class, and I'm thankful I did. What a great experience!

We were provided an near-overwhelming amount of tools and information and allowed hands-on experimentation of various techniques of creating an image in wax and preparing it for investment and casting.

While not everything turned out the way we had hoped, I came away from the twelve hours having learned a lot and with a new interest in further experimentation with the process. I truly can't wait for the opportunity to try this again.

Thank you, Ted and Richard, for putting the class together and sharing your knowledge. I'm truly looking forward to more classes, experimentation, and creation in the future. —Ed.

Rock Painting Days

The month of May seems like a long way off, but its never too early to begin preparing for our presence at *Snyder's Pow Wow*. As always, we'll be taking along the Spinning Wheel and we need prizes. The wonderful painted rock creations of our members have always been a big hit, so let's start creating them now.

We're setting aside two Saturdays in February, the 11th and the 18th, for a bit of socializing while rock painting in the clubhouse. All supplies, including paints, brushes and of course, rocks, will be provided. We've a variety of books and images to use as ideas if you need some help with inspiration, or you can just let that Rembrandt part of you come out in any way you choose.

Rocks and painting supplies are can also be taken home for that "in front of the TV" painting project if you are unable to help out on these designated Saturdays. The supplies are usually always available in the clubhouse.



AFMS www.amfed.org

BE SAFE – BE WELL

A message from your Safety Committee
Don Monroe, Chair

MSDS – What Is It?

MSDS is an acronym standing for *Material Safety Data Sheet* which can be very important to us and involves, in some cases, our personal safety. There are laws, rules and regulations governing MSDS and few, if any of us, have much real knowledge about all of the requirements. We do know that many products we come in contact with such as our medications, our chemicals, and the equipment and materials we use in our lapidary work have data sheets that we need to take the time to read and try to understand.

Our experienced students seem to take things for granted, but many of the new students ask some very good questions. They often want to know which soldering fluxes are the safest and what smoke or fumes can cause health problems. I always answer these questions to the best of my knowledge but often wonder if my knowledge is as complete as it should be. There is cadmium in some solders and cadmium can be quite deadly so some of the fumes from these solders should be avoided. There is definitely a difference in some of the most commonly used fluxes and we need to know more about them.

I do not have all of the answers and that bothers me. I do, however, have a New Year's resolution that I intend to follow in my workshop and in the various classes I will be teaching and it involves the following points:

- I will read and distribute to my students all of the brochures that are included with tools, equipment and products that we are using.
- I will copy and distribute to the students all of the articles and advertisements dealing with potential hazards.
- When I have doubt about a product, process or tool, I will contact the manufacturer and request a MSDS or other safety information.
- Although I always cover safety issues at the beginning of each class session, I will go much further with my coverage of these issues.
- At the risk of irritating some of my fellow instructors, I will judiciously meddle in their business and at least share any of my findings regarding MSDS hazards and better, safer ways to do the work that we enjoy.

We all need to realize that each of us functions as an instructor or mentor to the "new" players in the game and we have an obligation to foster good work habits and safe attitudes.

Will any of you join me in incorporating safety in your new year's resolutions?

AFMS Newsletter, February 2006

Federation News

CFMS www.cfmsinc.org



Safety: Tote That Rock, Lift That Toolbag By Mel Albright

One thing we rockhounds do a whole bunch—pick up rocks. Little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks. All are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often. The classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately.

Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy tools and rocks into a vehicle—or take them out. Often by swinging things. And the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn—and practice—the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually, light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves.

To lift and move something, several steps should be followed. We'll pretend we're picking up a rock, but the rules are the same for anything we pick up—even our dirty socks:

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).
2. Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.
3. Slowly lift the rock by straightening up your knees pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. Do not twist sideways.
4. Once standing, do not twist your back. To move the rock sideways, turn with your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.
5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you used to lift the rock. Remember—KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!!
6. If the rock must go into a trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in—a sure way to get a bad back!
7. You aren't Superman or woman! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way! Get help. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. Use your ingenuity!

CFMS Newsletter 02/06 via AFMS Newsletter, 4/98

**Pick your Committee or Chair Position
Join the Fun!! Volunteer Today!!**

Rx For Attracting New Members

By Ed Peterson

Two trends are prevalent in nearly every club: declining numbers and increasing age. Part of this decline is due to a "passing fad" (those with marginal interest drop out). Another part of the decline is due to "burn out" and some is due to members and/or clubs "getting in a rut" and dropping or de-emphasizing activities that attract new members.

To understand how the interests affect the type of new members acquired, we need to look at some generalizations about our hobby. The following statements are over-simplifications based on real and perceived attitudes of rockhounds and the general public:

- Mineral collecting is only for people with money.
- Lapidary work is the only part of rockhounding that you don't need a college degree for. (The *I'm not smart enough to collect minerals or fossils* syndrome).
- Lapidary work, especially faceting, takes a lot of expensive equipment and space.
- You have to be retired to have enough time to cut and polish rocks. (The most nearly true).

The net result of these attitudes is that many individuals who might be prospective club members are scared off. Combining this with a club structure and an activities schedule determined by a club leadership composed mostly of older members (those willing to work and have the time) further reduces the chances of attracting new members. The valuable and desirable new members are young adults and middle-aged adults (ages 20 to 50). A club effort to target these individuals is required. What factors are important to these individuals?

- A wide range of hobby activities (minerals, fossils, lapidary) and opportunity to learn (study groups, classes, field trips, etc.).
- Club meeting programs that are diverse and interesting.
- Club meeting times that fit the schedules of working people, especially those with smaller children.
- A minimum of work requirements.
- A maximum of field trips and other "exciting events".
- A minimum of club business conducted at meetings.
- A strong emphasis on "show and tell" at meetings (display tables for before and after the meeting discussions.)

Best Sources

What are the best sources of new members of all ages?

- Club show.
- Offering classes or study groups to the local community (recreation agencies, parks and recreation districts).
- Word of mouth.
- Displays at schools, libraries, museums and visitor centers.

What about youth groups? Youth groups are a very worthwhile and satisfying activity, but will not contribute members. The youth members are a byproduct of adults bringing their kids, not the other way around.

Both items from the CFMS Newsletter, 02/06

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Shop Organization Committee

The new Shop Organization Committee held its first meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. President Sheldon Shuper brought a thesaurus to explain difficult terms, such as "animosity" and "procrastination". Past President Les Clark griped a lot, then left early. Stan Henneman and Carl Zimmerman took on more jobs than they are likely to finish. Joy Fergoda volunteered the use of her truck to haul used oil, which she probably already regrets. Ron Shimazu asked that his name not be mentioned (oops!). Mike Hunerlach did not attend, having known better.

Following the meeting there was a productive work session, with a space cleared for the silversmithing/casting group to set up their tables and equipment. A ventilation hood will be designed and built. Les made a much-needed dump run the following Saturday.

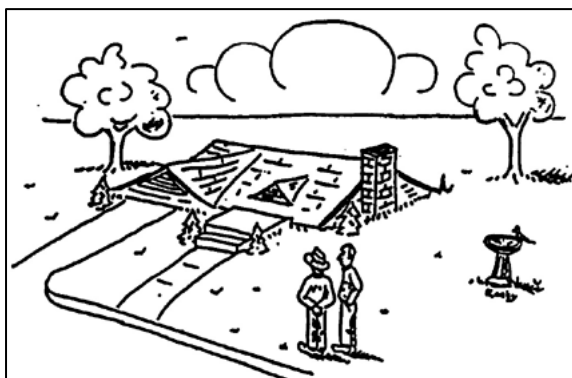
Respectfully submitted,
Frank Fawcett, Secretary.

Let Your Talents Be Known!!

Do you have a specific talent or are you an expert (or even a *semi-expert*) on a specific area of the Earth Sciences? Do you have a brain filled with mineralogical trivia that you're willing to share? Are you savvy in the techniques of a particular creative process? Do you have stories to share about your Rockhounding exploits that you're dying to talk about? Please let those details be known!

A "specialties" file is being created to capture our members' interests, expertise, and fascinations to use as a resource for future events such as the Educational Meetings, classes, and general club functions. We'll be gathering information from membership and renewal forms on file, but could also use your help in compiling this information by getting the details from you directly.

If you have a particular interest or talent you'd like to share, please drop a note with a description of those details to the editor at sms-editor@pacbell.net.



***I Knew Ole Rocky Was Getting
Too Many Rocks In His Basement!***

by Rocky West in the T-Town Rockhound 7/61
via Beehive Buzzer 10/98 & others

Editor’s Scribble.....

Have you read the CFMS article, *Rx for Attracting New Members* and the *Best Sources* items on page 7 yet? I scanned these items with interest as I’ve often had wonders about the subject. What really brings people to the club? What inspires them to join our family, and after becoming a member, what inspires them to stay?

I’ve shared in this column my own inspiration for joining the club, but I’ll repeat it again – *I just like rocks!* (*Smirk*) But I was mainly interested in the fact that the club had a shop available and many people with experience and knowledge that could help me learn something.

What about the rest of you? What pulled you in? Were you looking for a resource to help you venture out on field trips? Do you have an interest in the movements of the Earth or the composition of minerals? Is there just something about the discovery of an old bone or “footprint” that keeps you in awe of what existed in centuries past? It’s very possible that your own reasons for joining the SMS are the very same reasons that could inspire others to join.

Look at the factors listed at the end of the article and the *Best Sources* suggestions. Do you agree with those statements? How could we as a club put some of those suggestions into play more successfully? Are there other ways we could inspire or other things we might offer to the northern California community to help share our interests?

We share a lot of knowledge at our Educational Meetings on an assortment of topics – fossils, various minerals and their qualities, lapidary techniques, and geology. It’s wonderful to see our members attend these meetings. But what about those people who are not yet members? How can we get the word out to others in the Sacramento area that these presentations are available? We should be looking for sources of inexpensive – or better yet, FREE – advertising to announce our offerings to the public. How about an on-going listing in the “club” section of the *California Life Home & Garden* Saturday insert in *The Sacramento Bee*? Or a monthly announcement in their Friday or Sunday *Ticket* with a description of the topic of our next Educational Meeting?

Could we offer classes outside and away from the clubhouse? How about presenting a class through a resource like *The Learning Exchange* or the community college Adult Education programs? (One specific thought of my own is to offer a Stone Identification program to the public and invite people to bring in that special item they’ve had around the house but could never put a name to.) These could actually be profit-making activities as well as educational ones, and what better way to share some information about our club and possibly recruit new members at the same time?

Hobby activities are one of the biggest sellers our club can offer. Of course we, unlike many other clubs, have a shop with the equipment available to explore rock cutting and cabbing, and we’re building up our equipment and expertise every month. We do offer classes from time to time on various topics: casting, wire wrapping, carving, beading, dichroic glass, and we’re attempting

to work our way up to metal smithing. But what happens after the classes are over? Do we keep up with the activities as a group? For the most part, cabbing is really the only thing we continue to practice when the shop is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Something we might consider creating are on-going study groups that meet every so often to actually work on the techniques we learned during a class. The best way to learn a technique is to practice, practice, practice, and sharing your experiences with others can be inspiring and incredibly helpful. Keeping these activities alive on an on-going basis is something that just might be the impetus to many members to renew for another year.

Could we set up displays on a permanent basis in area libraries or colleges? While displays are not activities as such, they can be “silent recruiters” for our club by simply letting the public know we exist.

Last but not least, one thing every SMS member can do is to “talk up” the club and what you do here. It’s a known fact that people with similar interests just seem to find each other when the time is right. But these people won’t find you if you don’t talk about and share your interest in the Society and its functions. Spread the word about your interests and what the club has to offer. Bring a friend to the next Educational Meeting and let them see for themselves what we might do for them. This is one small way we can all participate and takes almost no effort at all. Besides, like I said last month – it’s fun!

~Kris.

February Shop Steward Schedule			
Wednesday		Saturday	
Feb. 1	Carl Z. or Craig M.	Feb. 4	Sam L.
Feb. 8	Mike H.	Feb. 11	Kevin B.
Feb. 15	Ron S.	Feb. 18	Stuart D.
Feb. 22	Carl Z.	Feb. 25	Stan H. and Jim C.

Reminder: Glasses are always required while working in the shop.

**Kevin Beguhl:
Thank you for becoming a Shop Steward!**

NOTICE:
Les Clark left a ventilation fan at the clubhouse. It may have looked like unwanted surplus but it wasn't! If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please contact him at (916) 421-4752. Thanks.

Liability Insurance Requirements

A Letter From CO-OP President, Jim Barton:

Dear CO-OP Members,

Please be advised that at the November 5, 2005 meeting a motion was passed to protect you and the clubs from lawsuits arising from the acts of others. This motion was to be placed above the field trips lists and the individual field trip write-up. The motion was: "All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (renters or homeowners policy)".

While I have heard a great deal of pro and con over the matter from various individuals inside and outside of the CO-OP, I have been empowered by the CO-OP to lead and promote the will of the majority. If you disagree with this requirement, I urge you to attend the next CO-OP meeting (March 4th) to voice your dissent in a democratic manner. Your input is always appreciated.

Jim Barton
CO-OP President
January 4, 2006

CO-OP
www.coop.5u.com

An Explanation from Fred Ott, Chair, CFMS Insurance:

Participating in geology field trips exposes the Field Trip Chairmen's Association (CO-OP), its member societies and individual field trip leaders to potential liability claims for which adequate liability insurance protection is needed. All individuals participating in a CO-OP field trip must have comprehensive personal liability insurance coverage of at least \$100,000 per occurrence to provide protection against claims or lawsuits resulting from their individual actions. Those individuals who are members of societies of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) are covered by the Federation's liability insurance policy and automatically meet this requirement. Those individuals who are not members of a CFMS club must provide proof of comprehensive personal liability insurance coverage to the field trip leader before participating in the respective field trip. A certificate of insurance or a copy of their homeowners/renters/manufactured homeowners or condominium/townhouse unit owner's policy is an acceptable form of verification. --Fred Ott

The 20th Annual Desert Symposium

Theme – Tracks Through Time: An Ichnologic Odyssey
April 21-24, 2006, Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, California

The 20th annual Desert Symposium will be held at California State University's Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx, on the shores of Soda Lake south of I-15 between Barstow and Baker. The event offers a variety of presentations on current research in archaeology, anthropology, paleontology, geology, ecology, biological sciences, and environmental issues in or related to the California deserts and surrounding areas. Abstracts of the proceedings and a field trip guide will be published.

The Symposium begins Friday, April 21st with registration and coffee at 8:00 a.m. and papers beginning at 9:00 a.m. A poster session and Symposium Social begins at 4:30 p.m. to be followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and a special evening lecture at 7:30 p.m.

After registration and coffee at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, additional papers will be presented at 9:00 a.m. The afternoon will be filled with a field trip to Dinosaur Discovery Site, St. George, Utah. The trip will depart the DSC to view late Miocene tracks in Eastern Star Wash and will return at the end of the day for dinner at the DSC.

On Sunday, March 23rd, participants will leave the Desert Studies Center to begin a two-day field trip to Jurassic tracks in the Mescal Range, and Triassic and Miocene sites in the vicinity of Moapa, Nevada. Dinner that evening will be at the *Golden Corral Buffet* in St. George, Utah, to be followed by a reception at the *Dinosaur Discovery Museum*. The group will camp overnight at Cedar Pocket on I-15 near St. George.

The trip continues on Monday, April 24th, after coffee and breakfast at Cedar Pocket. There will be two Ichnostratigraphic stops before lunch at the *Dinosaur Discovery Museum*. The trip will adjourn at 1:00 p.m., however if time permits, there will be an informal visit to Miocene tracks at Barstow.

Symposium fees (subject to change) which include registration, meals and overnight accommodation at the DSC, range from \$83.00 to \$140.00 depending on participation. For more information, contact Bob Reynolds at (951) 779-8914, email bob.reynolds@lsa-assoc.com, or William Presch at (714) 278-2728, email wpresch@fullerton.edu.

Information via CO-OP

Diamond Pacific Tool Corporation
P.O. Box 1180
2620 W. Main Street
Barstow, CA 92312
Tel. 760-255-1030 Fax 760-255-1077
Home of the "Genie."
www.diamondpacific.com/

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Upcoming Shows & Events

- Feb. 17-26 **Indio, CA.** *San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Club "Date Festival"*. Riverside County Fair and Date Festival. Gem & Mineral Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia Street. Hours: 10-10 daily. Gert Grisham, (951) 849-1674, grish1@msn.com.
- Feb. 25-26 **Antioch, CA.** *Antioch Lapidary Club*. Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street. Ellen Bauer, (925) 458-2539, jbauer@wwdb.org.
- Mar. 3-12 **Imperial, CA.** *Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Show*. IV Expo 200 East. Hours: 3rd-5th Noon-10, 6th-9th 4-10, 10th-12th noon-10. Jeep (760) 344-6230, itsjeep@earthlink.net.
- Mar. 3-5 **Hayward, CA.** *Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley*. Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd, Hayward. Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Ron Miller, (510) 887-9007, mgscv@yahoo.com. Show website: www.mgscv.com.
- Mar. 4-5 **Ventura, CA.** *Ventura Gem & Mineral Society*. Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, (805) 659-3577. Website: www.vgms.org.
- Mar. 4-5 **Arcadia, CA.** *Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.* Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 1 block south of I-210, Foothill Freeway near Santa Anita Race Track, 301 North Baldwin Ave. Hours: 9-4:30 both days. Janie Duncan (626) 358-8157; email: j.ritchey@verizon.net. Website: www.moroks.com.
- Mar. 10-12 **Hillsboro, OR.** *Tualatin Valley Gem Club*. Washington County Fair Complex, Main Exhibit Hall South, 873 NE 34th Ave. Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. & Sun. 10-5. Ed Kristovich (503) 681-0728.
- Mar. 10-12 **Victorville, CA.** *Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club*. Stoddard Wells (11 miles east of I5). Hours: Fri. & Sat 8-5, Sun. 8-2. Joe Kosik, (760) 241-0894.
- Mar. 11-12 **San Marino, CA.** *Pasadena Lapidary Society*. San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Hunting Drive. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. (626) 355-6964 or (626) 914-5030.
- Mar. 11-12 **Salinas, CA.** *Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club Annual Show*. Spreckels Veterans Memorial Bldg., 5th and Llano Streets. Hours: 10-5 both days. Jim Bassett, (831) 758-5830, jbmsc@sbcglobal.net.
- Mar. 11-12 **Turlock, CA.** *Mother Lode Mineral Society Gem Show*. Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway; Highway 99, Fulkerth exit. Hours: 10-5. \$5.00. Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494, www.motherlodemineralsociety.com.
- Mar. 18-19 **Bakersfield, CA.** *San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society's 4th Annual "Rock & Mineral Rendezvous"*. Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street at Bell Terrace. Hours: 9-5 both days. Contact Lew Helfrich, (661) 872-8230, lewsrocks@netzero.net.



**44th Annual
Gem and Mineral Show**

Roseville Rock Rollers

"Nature's Wonders"
March 25 & 26, 2006

Saturday 10 am – 5 pm Sunday 10 am – 4 pm
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville, CA

General Admission \$3.00
Seniors 60+ \$2.00, 12 and under Free
FREE PARKING

For more info: www.rockrollers.com

**Going to a show?
Show your club pride by wearing your SMS badge!**

Miscellaneous Hints n' Whatnot

These tips were gathered primarily from the bulletins and web sites of other clubs. Use them with caution as some are untried and others may not be tried and true. Just ideas!

Trim sawing– Trim saw blades can be worn or damaged by force feeding of slabs. An indication of too much pressure is a little dry area on the surface of the slab just in front of the blade. Sparks may also indicate too much pressure. An easy way to align the blade to the marked slab is to have the spray of coolant hit just outside the line.

Via Breccia 01/06, via Jax Gems 11/05, via Dops and Digs 3/05, via Rockpile 12/01

Need a Compass? If the sun is shining and you have a watch with an hour hand, you have a compass. Set the watch face up and arrange a slender object – a match or a flower stem – upright at the rim of the watch in such a way that its shadow lies atop the hour hand. No matter what time it is, halfway from the hour hand to the figure 12 is south.

Via Napa Gems 12/05, via Petrograph 04/04.

Mother Lode Mineral Society's 40th Annual Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show

The MLMS is pleased to announce that we have expanded our show to two buildings to allow room for special exhibits and speakers. This year we are featuring FOSSILS, FOSSILS and more FOSSILS.

Dr. Alan Schaffert, a local physician and amateur paleontologist, will be speaking about his extensive collection of late Cretaceous and Jurassic marine fossils from around the world. The exhibit covers over 1,000 square feet of floor space and includes a 10-foot Plesiosaur, 34-inch ammonite, 13-inch gem ammonite, huge uncoiled ammonites, invertebrates from the Lagerstätten fossil deposits, a 2" black pearl, and more. Dr. Schaffert will be speaking at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 11th.

Professor Richard Hilton, author, lecturer and Geology Professor at Sierra College in Rocklin, California, will be speaking about his book, *Dinosaurs & Other Mesozoic Reptiles of California*. Professor Hilton leads research trips each summer to the Hell Creek Formation in Montana and has made some incredible fossil discoveries. Come learn about California's rich fossil past as Professor Hilton shares his knowledge and experience at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 11th.

Ed Rigel, petrified wood and fossil expert and importer, is the owner of *Applegate Lapidary*. Rigel brings with him a portion of his fossil and wood collection that includes an eight-foot tall prehistoric cave bear, several complete meat-eating dinosaurs, dinosaur nest with eggs, and much more. He will amaze you with his knowledge of petrified wood at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12th.

The Silent Auction includes portions of five old collections, much of which is no longer available. We will have 34 dealers at the show, and 18 continuous demonstrations including lamp-working, dichroic and a sphere machine. A children's area has free activities including: touch and see, the *Dino Petting Zoo*, fluorescent display, treasure hunt, and more. All are designed to be fun and educational for children of all ages. If you enjoy dinosaurs and fossils then this is a must-see show.

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway, Turlock, California
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Admission: \$5.00, Children 12 and under free. \$1.00 off coupon available on the web site: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com.

Chairmen: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494.

Nifty Rockhound Bumper Sticker Slogans

Love a Geologist – feel your earthquake.
Love a Faceter – they're a cut above the rest.
Love a Mineralogist – but don't take them for Granite.
Love a Beader – but they'll string you along.
Love a Paleontologist – but beware, they collect old, dead things.

SMS CLASSIFIED

Have something to sell or trade? Attempting to make a connection with others of like mind or with specific interests or talents? Let others know! Messages are free of charge to SMS members or members of other area societies. Email your ad or notice to sms-editor@pacbell.net by the 25th of the month for display in the next issue of *The Matrix*. Sorry, business advertisements are not being accepted at this time.

LAPIDARY ITEMS FOR SALE:

- Titan Grinder and Polisher – *The Cadillac of Cabochon Cutting*. Almost New - \$1200.00.
- HP 14" Slab Saw with 16" Blade, motor - \$600.00.
- 10" Slab and Trim Saw with motor, auto feed, auto stop, rustproof alloy - \$400.00.
- 10" Wet Tile saw, adapted for lapidary use, sliding tray, water sprayer - \$175.00.
- 10" Table Delta table saw - \$150.00.

Contact Dave Fisk at: (916) 434-0747,
or email at: df022745@yahoo.com.

SHOP SURPLUS ITEMS FOR SALE

EXHIBIT CASES & POWER CORDS

Anyone interested in purchasing an Exhibit Case (or two or three or four) or power cords should contact Stan Henneman at (916) 363-5011 or Frank Fawcett at (530) 756-0516 before February 15th. Items are being offered first to SMS Club members, but will be offered to members of other societies and the public after mid-month. Make an offer!!!

SMS Calendar

February

- 9th—Thursday February Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
11th—Saturday Rock Painting at the clubhouse.
16th—Thursday February Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Harrison Jack—Flint Napping
Silent Auction!!
18th—Saturday Rock Painting at the clubhouse.

March

- 9th—Thurs March Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
16th—Thurs March Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Mike Hunerlach—Cady Mountain
Silent Auction!!

Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10-2.

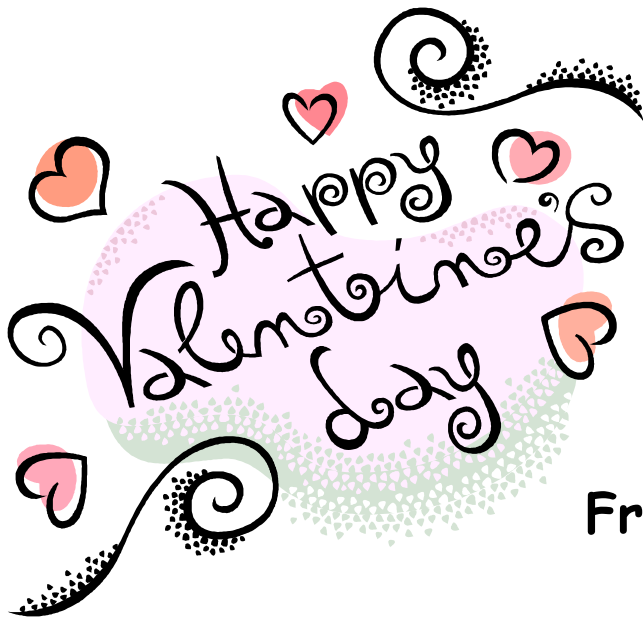
Spread the word and bring a friend!



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

The Matrix

February 2006



From the Sacramento
Mineral Society!

