



The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the
Sacramento Mineral Society
Sacramento, California

SMS

January 2006
Volume 66, No. 1

The Sacramento Mineral Society Wants YOU!!

The SMS needs all its committee positions filled in order to keep the organization running smoothly. Once again we're starting a new year with some members filling more than one position and many other positions still vacant. It's time that more members step up and become active and take all the responsibility off the few who always help out.

Of vital importance is appointing at least two volunteers to chair the 2006 show. The November event is our main money-maker for the club and the planning does not happen overnight – we need to start now to make sure we're ready to go when the time comes. And there are lots of experienced people to help guide you along.

Other current vacancies include a position on the By-Laws Committee and the Junior Activities Chair. We also need an individual to maintain the Mineral Collection and another person to handle Publicity for the club. New in the board's thoughts is garnering some advertisements for the club newsletter to help defray costs of publication and mailing; we could use a real social "go-getter" to fill that spot and he or she would also assist in advertising our club show in the fall.

Everybody has a talent that could be put to good use by the club. Please consider getting more involved and volunteering your time to help out in any way you can. Most appointments necessitate giving only a few hours a month and help you get to know more of our members. Things don't just "magically" happen – it takes the participation of all our members to make our club a success. Besides that, I can speak from experience when I say that helping out also "*just feels good!*"

Contact any board member to volunteer in these or any other areas and/or come to the January Business Meeting to let your interests be known.

New for 2006— Silent Auctions

Over the years the Sacramento Mineral Society has accumulated many rocks, gems, minerals and other rock related items that aren't being put to use or enjoyed. Beginning at the Educational Meeting in January, and continuing at each monthly meeting, some of these items will be auctioned off at a silent auction. The items available may be rare, difficult to find, or just plain pretty.

Here's how it works: at each meeting there will be a minimum of three items for auction. Attendees may bid before the meeting, at the break, and at the end of the meeting by simply writing your name and amount of bid on the paper under the item. Others are free to add bids throughout the evening. If someone out-bids you, you may counter that offer by adding your name again with a new bid. At the end of the evening the item goes home with the winning bidder.

All Educational Meetings are at the clubhouse at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Monies collected from the auction will be added to our general fund to help offset operating expenses. So be sure to support your club and come see what goodies are being offered. You just might find that special item you've been looking for!



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New Committee Forming

President, Sheldon Shuper, is attempting to form a new committee of approximately six individuals who would be responsible for maintaining the shop and grounds of the Sacramento Mineral Society's facility.

Currently, whenever the grounds need tidying up or the shop needs reorganization or clean-up, volunteers are garnered "on the fly" for a day's attention to these areas. But we're hoping to create a committee of able volunteers who are willing to be available to do this on a more consistent basis.

Members of the committee would be responsible for the upkeep of the grounds and organization of the shop, but would not have to be responsible for machine repair. Times, days and some details for this committee assignment are still to be decided.

If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact Sheldon Shuper at 383-9153.

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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 All Rockhounds!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! A new year is upon us with field trips being planned for the year and new classes being finalized and coming into fruition.

Snyder's Pow Wow is only a few months away. If you can help, let one of your board members know. We are looking for two members to take charge and help coordinate the volunteers and plan what needs to be done.

Remember... Dues are due! You cannot use the shop until your dues are paid. According to our club by-laws, your name will be dropped from the club roster if dues are not received by March 1, 2006.

You are all welcome at the board meetings on the second Thursday of every month.

We are looking for committee members to fill out the roster of committees for 2006. We especially need two co-chairmen to head up the November show. We also need assistants to help a lot of the committee members as things can get very busy at times. Let a board member know if you can help.

Have a great 2006!!

— Sheldon Shuper

Preparing for Our Annual Events

Although it seems as if we just finished with the fun and excitement of the 2005 show, it's never too early to begin thinking about the 2006 SMS Gem Show. *Snyder's Pow Wow*, the largest show of its kind in Northern California, is also just "around the corner" and the Sacramento Mineral Society traditionally occupies a booth at the event, sharing with a bit of "show and tell" and spreading the word about our club.

At both these events the Spinning Wheel is one of the most popular attractions, and what makes it fun is the assortment of prizes one can win when that wheel stops. Even if it is almost like gambling, the kids especially enjoy coming to play and see what "prizes" they can leave with.

We are always in need of items for Spinning Wheel prizes. Painted rocks have proven popular with the kids, so let's not wait to begin creating them. Paints, brushes, a variety of sizes of river rock, and books with inspirational ideas are always available in the clubhouse. Spend a little of your time at the clubhouse letting your *van Gogh* out to play while you socialize! Painting rocks is something to keep your hands busy with when you're sitting down at home in the evenings to tune in to your favorite TV programs, too, so feel free to take some of the paints and rocks home and bring back a few new creations.

2006 Board Members

President:	Sheldon Shuper	(916) 383-9153	
Vice President:	Carl Zimmerman	(916) 739-1279	
Secretary:	Carolyn Davis	(916) 482-1345	bb1doc@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	OPEN		
Federation Director:	Barbara Foscett	(916) 685-4111	jfosback@aol.com
Editor:	Kris Jarusevicius	(916) 451-4806	sms-editor@pacbell.net
Past President:	Les Clark	(916) 421-4752	
Directors 2006-2007:	Linda Baglin	(916) 685-8132	lolybag@aol.com
	Dixie Christenson	(916) 455-0421	gildedcat@sbcglobal.net
	Lana Paulhamus	(916) 372-5117	
Directors 2005-2007:	Mike Hunerlach	(916) 989-4653	mphunerlach@comcast.net
	Richard Davis	(916) 482-1345	

Committees and Chairs

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

Happy Birthday to All January Babies!

January's Birthstone: Garnet

The word Garnet is derived from the Latin word for "grain" and was applied to the gemstone due to the grainy look of its rounded crystals in its raw form or possibly due to the red and grainy looking fruit of the pomegranate. The stone has been used for thousands of years, not only as jewelry, but as a cure-all and a protective talisman. It is the "stone of health" and a "stone of commitment".

Though usually thought of first for its deep, red color, Garnet is actually a group of differently colored minerals with similar composition. Metal impurities such as aluminum, manganese, and iron impart the variety of colors. Some of the more popular varieties include the *Pyrope*, a black to ruby red variety, the most popular of which come from what is now the Czech Republic. The violet-red shade of *Pyrope* from North Carolina has been called *Rhodolite*, and some sources list *Rhodolite* as an alternative to the Garnet as the January birthstone. The blue color change variety of *Pyrope* changes color under different types of light, and was discovered in 1998 in Madagascar; it is very rare. The green gem, *Tsavorite*, is from Kenya and Tanzania and is one of the more sought after Garnets. The orange-yellow variety of *Spessartite* is found in Madagascar. The *Uvarovite* is a rare bright green variety found in Russia and Finland. The *Demantoid* is a prized green variety from the Urals. All colors are acceptable to wear as a birthstone for January.

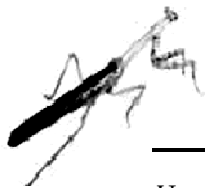
A few Garnets look as if they have a star in their center. This is produced when tiny fibers of the metal impurities form within the piece of stone.

Old stories tell of Garnets being used as bullets by Japanese and Chinese warriors, as it was thought that their bright red color would cause more deadly wounds. On the other hand, medieval warriors believed the Garnet protected them from wounds and brought victory.

Legend holds that Noah hung a large, Garnet lantern in the ark for illumination to guide it safely through the darkness of night. Similarly, East Indians rubbed Garnet on themselves to obtain glowing qualities. The Egyptians also believed in the Garnet's illuminating qualities, and additionally believed it would protect its wearer from enemies and was an antidote for food poisoning and snake bites. The stone is also said to give its wearer protection from nightmares.

It is often worn to relieve inflammations of the skin and is believed to regulate the heart and blood flow. It aids in ridding the body of negative energy and emotions, thus easing depression. It also stimulates the desire and fortitude that it takes to connect to decisions.

In earlier times, Garnets were exchanged as gifts between friends to demonstrate their affection for each other and to insure that they meet again. It symbolizes happiness and deep, enduring friendships and sparks creativity. The Garnet is also the gemstone for the second wedding anniversary.



Letter From Manti

Here we are in 2006. The year 2005 flew by because everyone at the SMS facility is always busy. The machines keep whirring and everyone hurries to keep up with deadlines for BBQ's, shows, and tailgating.

I heard that forty-three members attended the Christmas Party at The Spaghetti Factory. Sheldon Shuper received a plaque for his work as president and Stan Henneman received a certificate from the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Stan was nominated by SMS for this year's *Education Through Sharing* Award. The gift exchange was a lot of fun with many interesting presents given and received.

I am looking forward to 2006 as I watch members participating in the activities of the club. I think back to all the classes I watched in 2005. There were classes in wax carving, wire artistry, beading, rock painting, bone carving, and glass fusing. I hear there will be other classes offered in 2006.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the classes and the meetings this year of 2006.

Love,
Manti

2005 Holiday Dinner & Installation of Officers

In lieu of a December Educational Meeting, the 2005 Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers was held at *The Spaghetti Factory* in Elk Grove on Thursday, December 15th. We had a great turn out with more than forty SMS members attending.

After a slight delay to reconfigure the banquet room to fit all the participants, the evening was filled with lots of socializing and the presentation of a few special awards. Sheldon Shuper was given a plaque in acknowledgement of his presidency of the club and his willingness to step up from the position of Vice President when it was so suddenly required. Also, congratulations went out to Stan Henneman on his receipt of the CFMS *Rockhound of the Year* award, and to Tony and Millie Ivanovich on the announcement of Honorary Lifetime Memberships to SMS for them both.

The evening was filled with lots of socializing, a gift exchange, and yummy Italian dinners. Finally, the new officers for 2006 were installed. Each was presented with a memo of assignment and confirmed acceptance of the duties each is to uphold.

A special thanks goes out to Barbara Foskett for organizing the event and emceeding the evening's festivities. Wonderful job Barbara!!

(Editor's suggestion: If anyone discovers a good restaurant with a banquet/meeting room, please pass the name of the place on to Barbara. With our increase in membership and member participation, we've nearly outgrown The Spaghetti Factory's banquet room!)

December Business Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. with President Sheldon Shuper presiding. A quorum of club members was present.

New members were discussed and approved.

The November meeting minutes were read. The note about Jade Cove was in error. It was held in October. Beyond that correction, the November minutes were approved.

The CFMS 67th Annual Show will be held at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds in Angel's Camp June 9-11, 2006.

A lengthy treasurer's report of the club's current standing was presented by Stan Henneman. The club made over \$5,000.00 from the annual show, but lost over \$1,000.00 for the year. This should be alleviated by increased shop and rock fees and a rock auction at the end of each educational meeting. The board suggested we should have a goal for 2006 to increase the amount of money we have in our CDs. We will look into the possibility of having our treasurer bonded. Stan will have more information on this at the next business meeting.

It was agreed that we would not have a raffle at the next show.

Stan again thanked everyone who worked on this year's show, especially Sheldon Shuper and Boyd and Denise Lasater.

There will be a meeting of the group to set up the financial sheets. Once the committee, consisting of Barbara Foscett, Sheldon Shuper and Richard Davis, finalize the method of keeping our financial records, the treasurer for next year will meet with them and discuss this matter.

The by-laws will be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee, Sheldon Shuper and Barbara Foscett.

It was agreed that the editor of the newsletter will be given free shop fees for the work that she puts in monthly. (*And she was floored. Thanks everybody!! —Ed.*)

The possibility of seeking additional advertising for the newsletter was brought up and will be discussed further at the next business meeting.

As noted previously, the shop will be closed on the Saturdays before Christmas and New Years.

Topics for next year's educational meetings were discussed. Mike Hunerlach will be presenting a discussion on a field trip to an area near Barstow in March; the trip is expected to be for three to four days. Jim Christian will give a lecture on carving in April. Each of our scholarship winners will also be giving a presentation sometime during the year. Paul Wood will give a talk (or possibly a workshop) on dealing with opals. Carl indicated that he is open to all ideas and suggestions for topics for the Educational Meetings.

So far, club members have donated \$175.00 toward rebuilding the 30" saw. Mike Hunerlach has apparently found a place to have the work done. It is estimated that the total cost will be \$300.00 to \$400.00, and the saw will be out of commission for 2-3 months. Any additional donations would still be appreciated. If

it is not supported by the general membership, the possibility of selling the saw will be considered.

Millie and Tony Ivanovich have donated some silver working equipment to the shop. For the donation and for their long history of working for our club, it was unanimously decided to make them honorary lifetime members. They will be sent a note to this effect.

Discussion was had on attempting to come up with more club field trips during the year. Les will look into defining a few possible sites and encouraged that we all consider carpooling to the events.

We agreed to buy five pump kits for the Genies. The machines are again showing excessive wear so it is important that newer members be watched closely while working in the shop.

Several members volunteered to go through some of the donated rocks to identify items to include in our rock auctions.

The appointed committee positions were read and approved. Several positions are open and volunteers are requested to fill the vacancies. Members should contact any board member if they are interested in volunteering.

We still need more stewards for the shop. It has become apparent that two shop stewards would be ideal for the shop when it is open. One would run the saws, and the second would monitor the shop and help people working on the machines.

We also would like to find co-chairpersons for next year's show. The sooner we get going on this the better our show will be.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Davis

Federation Director's Update By Barbara Foscett

Bill Gissler, CFMS Slide and Video Librarian, reports that the CFMS now has a 46-slide presentation about the curative powers of gemstones. The presentation was prepared by Shirley Turski and won the AFMS slide program competition award in 1997.

A video titled, "The Geology of the Pacific Northwest Exotic Terrain", should be very interesting. It is the story of the magnificent mountains along the Oregon-Idaho border and of the geologists who pieced together the history of these mysterious rocks. If you would like to see either or both of these media items at one of our Educational Meetings, contact our Vice President and Program Chairman, Carl Zimmerman.

Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Activities Chairman, reports that a brand new book, *Jewelry Making and Beading for Dummies*, by Heather Dismore and creative consultant Tammy Powley has a great deal of information and help for the beginner.

REMINDER: If you want to attend the CFMS Earth Science Studies at Zzyxx (near Baker, CA) March 19-26, you should get your application in immediately. The application is available on the CFMS web site.

SMS Educational Meetings January – Carl Zimmerman

Come join us on Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse for the first Educational Meeting of 2006. Our own Vice President and Educational Meeting Coordinator, Carl Zimmerman, will present an informational discussion of plans for the Sacramento Mineral Society for the coming year. He'll share with members a general status of the club to date and share information and ideas for the new year, including details about the new monthly silent auction.

Plans for future Educational Meetings promise a variety of topics. Mark your calendars for the following dates and topics of discussion:

- February 16th: Harrison Jack — Flint-Napping
 March 16th: Mike Hunerlach—Cady Mountain
 (in preparation for an April field trip)
 April 20th: Jim Christian—Stone Carving

Future plans for the year include presentations by both of our 2005 scholarship winners, Elizabeth Sehan and Mandy Plaskett, and a discussion about working with opals by Paul Wood. Keep an eye on *The Matrix* for further information.

If you have any ideas or interests that you'd like to see as a topic for one of our Educational Meetings, or are willing to make a presentation yourself, Carl Zimmerman would like to hear from you. Contact him at (916) 371-0738.

Coming Soon to www.SacMineralSociety.org

The "Show and Tell" section of the website is in the process of being updated with new images of creations by our members. If you're interested in sharing some images of your creations, contact Webmasters, Tarance and Kevin Beguhl at 459-7556 or webebeguhl@aol.com. You can also drop a note to the editor at its-kris@pacbell.net. Arrangements can be made to have photos of your work taken during one of the shop days.

Rock Collection for Sale

There is a rock collection for sale in Sebastopol, California, near the flea market on Highway 116. Quite a lot of Brazilian Agate, all sizes, and some large boulders of very nice red and white Rhyolite, petrified wood, and other rocks.

Prices are said to be reasonable (\$2-3 for the agates), and rocks will be shown seven days a week until they're gone. Contact: Josh Roth at (707) 318-8169 or by email at gr8geku@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you to CO-OP Secretary, Florence Brady, for sharing this information obtained from the North Bay Field Trip Club.

Congratulations to Tony & Millie Ivanovich!

In an organization like the SMS, some people more or less just stand by and watch things happen. They participate in some activities and help out a little when a need arises, but remain relatively "quiet" within the club overall. Occasionally, however, a society like the SMS receives the honor of having truly dedicated members like Tony and Millie Ivanovich.

Throughout their years as members of the Sacramento Mineral Society, both Tony and Millie have held the position of President and have each chaired the annual SMS show. At various times, Tony also acted as Treasurer and as CFMS Federation Director. He also shared some of his knowledge and skill by teaching classes in silversmithing. Millie assisted the Federation by judging exhibit cases at various CFMS shows and was a previous editor of the club's newsletter, *The Matrix*. Still today, both Millie and Tony coordinate the monthly mailing of the newsletter to members of the club.

For their many years of dedicated service to the Sacramento Mineral Society and affiliated organizations, the Board of the SMS unanimously approved Honorary Lifetime Memberships to them both. Millie and Tony were presented with the honor at the 2005 Christmas Dinner on December 15th, 2005.

Congratulations Tony and Millie, and thank you for giving so much of yourselves to keep our organization running smoothly through the years!

Be That "Special Gem" of the 2006 Show!

SMS is anxiously seeking at least two individuals to volunteer for the prestigious positions of Co-Chairs for the Sacramento Mineral Society's 2006 Gem Show.

Obviously, we need our volunteers to step up early. Being the club's largest money-maker of the year, the show is a big responsibility and takes a lot of organizing; our club's success depends a lot on the success of this annual event. Those heading the event need to become familiar with the details and start organizing things as soon as possible.

If you've considered volunteering, here are a few things it might help to know. The Show Chairs are responsible for all show functions – contacting the hall manager to schedule the event, acquiring and maintaining a dealer list, and acting as the P.R. person for the club, both before and during the show. The Chairs also deal with the logistics of table and electrical set-up at show time, and coordinating volunteers. They may also organize sub-committees to recruit exhibitors and demonstrators and handle the food prep and sale at the show.

Volunteers need not have any previous experience. Past Chairpersons and committee members would be more than willing to share their experiences and expertise to help you on the project.

Please let a board member know as soon as possible if you're willing to help out. The Board would like to nominate our Show Chairs and begin discussions about the show at the Business Meeting on January 12th, so please plan on attending.

Editor's Scribble

As is typical for me, I take the last week of the year off from work and spend my time on a little mental "vacation". I take each day as it comes and do what I feel like doing at each moment (even if what I *feel* like doing happens to be those chores I've been putting off for weeks). Winter has always been a time of contemplation and gives us a chance to mellow a bit and take a look at our lives and what we're doing with them. In my personal contemplations this year, I started to think about the Society and just why I joined. Why did I do this and what am I getting out of it?

After all, sometimes I feel as though I give away too much of my weekend to rocks. Sometimes it gets a bit difficult heading out to a Thursday night meeting after putting in a long day at work. Part of the dining area of my home is stacked with boxes of various slabs, supplies and tools that I don't feel will ever find a permanent place to store themselves. And now at the end of each month, I find myself in a crunch putting together a bulletin to spread information to other members.

But then I recall that I've always had a fascination with nature's gifts and this is one way of exploring some of them more. I'm here because I enjoy that exploration; I enjoy attempts at creating and picking up ideas from others along the way. I've made some friends and learned a few things and passed some of that knowledge on to others. I confirmed for myself that joining the SMS was a good thing for me and I do enjoy it.

Sometimes we all find it difficult to manage all the details in our lives, but taking the time to do something we each enjoy is a true necessity. Obviously, each one of you has at least some fascination for rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones or jewelry, or you wouldn't be a member of the society at all. But let's face it – the club is essentially an organized manner of getting people together to socialize and talk about their hobbies. Being a part of the SMS offers you the opportunity to dedicate some time to doing something you enjoy: to venture out on mini-vacations, playing the role of miner or archeologist or discoverer; it offers you the machinery and instruction to take

a piece of nature and turn it into art, and the techniques and advice to create other wearable art using glass, silver, or wire. But most of all, it brings people of like mind together and allows us to share our experiences, thoughts, and ideas with others. All that is really what most people call "fun", isn't it?

As with most clubs, a few members continue to do bulk of the work and *it is work* running the club – organizing, paying the bills, spreading information, keeping the equipment up and running and the grounds maintained. But we are in a setting where we can easily merge that work with FUN. When you pop in to the shop or clubhouse to socialize or spend some time cutting rock or cabbng on the machines, take a bit of that time to help out somewhere around the facility. Clean up a corner in the clubhouse or shop, organize the magazines or books, or spend a bit of time painting some rocks or creating grab bags for future shows and events. Show your support and enthusiasm by dedicating a bit of your time to the club by volunteering to be on a committee or chair an event. A club is only as good as its members and those that help out are the life blood of the organization.

It's a new year... It's time to make those New Year resolutions. I make them every year – don't you? It's rather odd how all the resolutions we make tend to be about "quitting" something... smoking, eating too much, watching too much TV. But resolutions are a good thing. They can be inspirations. They can be affirmations that you want to do something good for whatever reason you have. So do a little something good: resolve to dedicate a bit more time to your club by volunteering to be on a committee or chair an event or project. Make this the year you commit to being an ACTIVE member of the SMS. Participate! Share your knowledge, curiosity, enthusiasm, talent and thoughts with other members. Give a little back for the enjoyment you've received. The SMS needs some of your time, effort, elbow grease, and ideas and with every little thing you do to help out, you make the club a better place to be – and that we all can enjoy.

Happy New Year to all the members of the SMS – let's all have some fun!

~ Kris

Welcome New Members!

We start this new year with nine new members joining the club as of the first of this month.

Please welcome: Jeff Bloor, Crystal Friedrichs, Donna Haselow, Emma Krouse, Marilyn Merydith, Nancy Root, John Szabo, Susan Rubenstein, and Kala Taylor.

Welcome everyone and enjoy the club!

SMS CLASSIFIED

Have something to sell or trade? Are you attempting to make a connection with others or 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, but business advertisements are not being accepted at this time.

Help Rebuild the Slab Saw

Funds are still needed to offset the cost of rebuilding the 30" slab saw. So far, members have donated \$175.00 to the project, but the total estimated cost is \$300.00-400.00. If you're interested in lending financial support, please contact Mike Hunerlach at 989-4653.

We Still Need Shop Stewards!

The Sacramento Mineral Society is still in need of additional volunteers to assist with the shop activities on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Our current Shop Stewards – Stan Henneman, Sam Lister, Boyd Lasater, Stuart Dubois, Ron Shimazu, Marco Dimas, Carl Zimmerman, Sheldon Shuper, Mike Hunerlach, and newbies, Craig McCoy and Jim Christian – are owed many thanks for volunteering their time to run the shop for our members. But they'd like a little more help. We now need two individuals present at every shop day, one to operate the slab saws and the other to keep an eye on the shop and the machines and to assist members while they're working.

Being a Shop Steward requires a commitment of as little as six hours a month, usually on a Wednesday or a Saturday. You can volunteer to help in the shop only or just operate the slab saws during a session. And of course, any necessary training would be provided before you're set free to run things.

Anyone interested in helping in the shop should contact Sheldon Shuper at 383-9153 or the Shop Foreman, Mike Hunerlach, at 989-4653.

January Shop Steward Schedule

Wednesday		Saturday	
Jan. 4	Stan H.	Jan. 7	Sam L. or Stuart D.
Jan. 11	Ron S.	Jan. 14	Sam L. or Stuart D.
Jan. 18	Carl Z.	Jan. 21	Craig M.
Jan. 25	Mike H.	Jan. 28	Jim C. and Stan H.

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

New Year Reminder: Only those members whose annual dues are paid in full may use the shop facilities. Liabilities and limitations prevent the club from allowing non-members from using the equipment and until your dues are paid, you are just that – a non-member.

The Club cannot make exceptions. If you are not on the Shop Stewards' list of paid members in January, you will be able to use the shop until paid membership is confirmed.

Genie Use

If you've been to the shop at all these past few months, you've probably noticed a Genie or two out of commission from time to time. While the Genies are obviously machines, and yes, machines do break down for various reasons, much of the time a Genie will be down due to wheel wear or as a result of improper use. What good is spending time on the machines if they won't do a proper job?

While keeping the machines working properly is mainly the Shop Stewards' concern, recognizing when there is a problem is everybody's responsibility. And like any sort of illness, if a problem with a machine is caught early, it will probably be less trouble to repair. So here are a few reminders of how you can do your part to keep repair costs and wheel wear to a minimum.

Genie Do's:

- ♦ Verify that the hoses and trays are properly in place. Add two cups of water to each tray.
- ♦ Start the machine and listen for excessive or unusual noise. If it's noisy, stop the machine immediately and ask a Shop Steward for assistance.
- ♦ Always keep the wheels wet when working a stone. Move the geysers as you proceed through the wheels.
- ♦ Use the downward motion of the wheels (bottom half of the wheel).
- ♦ Do most of your stone shaping on the largest grit grinding wheel (the wheel farthest on the left).
- ♦ Use light pressure on the grinding wheels (first three wheels from the left). Use a firmer pressure on the polishing (Nova) wheels (wheels to the right) as these wheels will flex to conform to the shape of the stone.
- ♦ Remove scratches with the 280-grit wheel before moving to the polishing wheels to the right.
- ♦ Check the shape and surface of your stone in strong light often.
- ♦ When you're finished, be sure to clean up your work area – including the machine – properly.

Genie Don'ts:

- ♦ Do not plow the wheels with the sharp edge of the stone. This causes excessive wear.
- ♦ Do not spend more than a few minutes on each of the polishing wheels before moving on to the next wheel. If scratches are still visible, move back to the 280-grit grinding wheel. Remove the scratches, then restart the polishing process again.
- ♦ Don't leave the machine running unnecessarily. When you step away for even a few minutes, turn the machine off.

Take the time to get the proper instruction for using the machines from the Shop Stewards. Instruction booklets on machine usage are also available in the drawer of the table in the center of the room. Always report any problems to a Steward as soon as you're aware of them.



CFMS News www.cfmsinc.org

SAFETY

By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair

Quick Quiz: More than 90% of the disasters the American Red Cross responds to are:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| A. Floods | C. Residential fires |
| B. Tornadoes | D. Hurricanes |

Answer: C!

While catastrophic disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes grab the headlines, the American Red Cross works diligently behind the scenes day in and day out ensuring that families whose homes are destroyed or damaged by fire have their basic comforts taken care of as they begin to repair their lives. Be it new clothing, a place to rest their heads or a warm meal, more than 800 chapters around the country are on-call, waiting to provide aid to their neighbors in need.

Home fires are almost always preventable. Yet sadly every year, more than 4,000 people die in home fires and over 25,000 are injured.

Fire Prevention— Instruct children to tell an adult right away if they find matches or lighters or see someone playing with fire, matches, or lighters.

Children should also know that candles are a frequent cause of devastating fires in homes. Candles must be kept away from any combustible/flammable items or materials and must never be left unattended. The increasing popularity of candles has led to a dramatic increase in the number of tragic fires. In case of power outage, families should use flashlights for emergency lighting, not candles. In 2002, more than 18,600 fires started with candles.

Make Your Home Fire Safe— Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. If people sleep with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too.

Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year.

Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms monthly. Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace your smoke alarms every ten years.

Consider having one or more working fire extinguishers in your home. Get training from the fire department in how to use them. Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home.

Plan Your Escape Routes— Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home. Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.

Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.



The 67th Annual CFMS Show

Angels Camp, CA, June 9-11, 2006

Show Update

This is the first in a series of articles providing information about speakers and special exhibitors at the CFMS Federation Show. The 2006 show is being hosted by the *Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society* in Angels Camp on June 9-11, 2006.

Special Exhibitor: Alan Schaffert is a local physician and an amateur paleontologist with a passion for marine fossils. He found his first fossil by accident at age thirteen when he and his brothers were throwing rocks on a stony beach in Northern Michigan. One rock shattered as it landed and out popped a perfect brachiopod. It was awesome and he was hooked. Many more rocks were enthusiastically cracked that afternoon, alas, they were all duds. Far from being disappointed, this object lesson only served to whet his appetite for collecting more fossils.

Over the next 40 years, Alan has collected specimens from Michigan, Colorado, Utah, and California, and has purchased numerous marine fossils from around the world. His interests include Cretaceous ammonites and invertebrates from some of the classic fossil deposits known as Lagerstätten. Lagerstätten are fossil deposits that exhibit extraordinary preservation and completeness of the plants and animals from a particular era.

Alan is new to exhibiting and is pleased to share specimens from his collection. He hopes that the public will enjoy learning about them as much as he does.

Exhibit—“Sea Dragons and Snake Stones”: While dinosaurs ruled the land, aquatic reptiles or “sea dragons” ruled the oceans. Some sea dragons were relatively small while others reached gigantic proportions weighing up to eight tons with a head larger than a T-Rex! These were the top predators of the ancient waters and almost all animals were potential prey. Have you ever wondered what a Tylosaur would eat? The answer is simple—anything it wanted! Come and enjoy the mysterious and frightful world of the Plesiosaurs, Ichthyosaurs, and Mosasaurs. Full sized three dimensional casts will be on display during the show.

The great ocean-going reptiles lived in a very different ocean than exists today. There were many strange and exotic creatures. The ammonites or “snake stones” were squid-like animals inhabiting a great variety of shells. Some had bizarre shapes and others grew up to 8 feet across! There were giant clams with giant pearls. The fish were very different species than we see today. Some of the fantastic specimens on display will be sure to capture your imagination.



AFMS News www.amfed.org

Metal Smithing – Is it Dangerous?

By Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Committee Chair

Students in my beginning silver classes often ask if the class is dangerous. The answer to this question can be both yes and no. If you listen to the instructions given by the instructor, it is very unlikely that any sort of injury will result but we must always be aware and be careful because minor injuries are not uncommon.

We all learned, probably before age two, that fire will burn you, as will hot metal, hot water and all other hot things. I open each new class with a brief lecture discussing the things that can cause an injury. Students are often afraid of the torch and need some instruction and encouragement when soldering. I always tell them that while the torch is an obvious hazard, it is really not the piece of equipment that is responsible for most injuries.

Since I have been teaching, almost all of the injuries result from polishing equipment being used improperly. A buffing machine will 'grab' a piece of jewelry being polished and sling it away and can cause severe injuries if it snags a finger or hand. Surprisingly more buffing/polishing injuries result from the flexible shaft machines. While using a Foredom, Dremel, or similar machine, the edge of the piece will catch the wheel and run around behind the piece being polished. This often results in a bent mandrel, that can hit the hand and cause a nasty cut.

Eye injuries are a category where none of us provides enough care for ourselves and those around us. We should wear safety glasses or some type of eye protection. We all know that, but so few of us do what we should.

We use a variety of chemicals in our workshops and some of them deserve more caution than we give them. Think about the following list: pickle solution for cleaning silver (it is an acid you know!); flux definitely requires ventilation to avoid breathing dangerous fumes; blacking or other solutions used to create a patina; alcohol and acetone which are not only flammable but should not be breathed. Should we not read the MSDS sheets that come with many of the products? If we don't get the MSDS for new materials we purchase, I am sure that suppliers will jump at the opportunity to send us one. It is the law!

The last type of injury that I want to discuss is the common cut. Almost everything we handle can cause a cut. Paper cuts are most annoying and can become infected. Knives, jeweler's saws, broken glass and sharp edges of work pieces can open cuts. We keep first aid supplies handy and, for ourselves, we use super glue. Not being licensed medical personnel we do not treat the students with super glue but we describe for them the potential benefits. My dermatologist uses super glue for small incisions with great success. I understand this material was developed for battlefield use in Vietnam and I have been impressed with it. Might be worth having a discussion with your physician and get his (or her) opinion.

AFMS Newsletter, December 2005-January 2006
Edited due to space limitations.

Where Are Those "Few Good Programs"?

By Marge Collins, AFMS Program Chair

Has anyone seen any good programs lately? If so, they deserve recognition beyond the "Great program! I learned a lot", and similar comments of fellow club members.

Did a fellow club member – or you – produce a presentation this year or in the recent past? We encourage you to take the next step. Authors of great programs deserve something extra in the way of recognition. They can receive it through the AFMS Program Competition. There are a variety of rewards and best of all other clubs across the country can see the winners via their Regional Program Library.

Since you or any author can't possibly make live presentations to more than a few clubs within a reasonable distance, why not give your presentation a longer life by entering? If necessary, make the production a club project – bringing extra rewards of camaraderie, development of member's talents – and perhaps inspiring even more good programs.

The guidelines and rules are straightforward. Digital, VHS and old-fashioned 35mm slide presentations related to our hobby are eligible. See the November AFMS Newsletter, AFMS website, or contact me for details. Deadline? 4-15-06. But it's not too early to be thinking of 2007.

Marge Collins, Competition Coordinator, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107, margaret@qtm.net, (269) 695-4313.

AFMS Newsletter, December 2005-January 2006 Edited due to space limitations.

SMS Calendar

January

- 7th—Sat Session One: *Fast Start in Silver Casting*
- 12th—Thurs January Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14th—Sat Session Two: *Fast Start in Silver Casting*
- 19th—Thurs January Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Carl Zimmerman—SMS Info for 2006
- 21st—Sat Session Three: *Fast Start in Silver Casting*

February

- 9th—Thurs February Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16th—Thurs February Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Harrison Jack—Flint Napping

March

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

Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10-2.

Spread the word and bring a friend!

Upcoming Shows & Events

- Jan. 21-22 **Exeter, CA.** *Tule Gem & Mineral Society's "50th Annual Fabulous Fun-Filled Show"*. Exeter Veteran's Memorial Building, Highway 65. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.
- Jan. 27-29 **Redlands, CA.** *Southern California Micromineralogist's 41st Pacific Micromount Conference. 2024 Orange Tree Lane.* Hours: Fri. 3-10, Sat. & Sun. 8-10. Paul M. Adams, (310) 336-6927, paul.m.adams@aero.org.
- 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. 3-5 **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, mgscev@yahoo.com. Show website: www.mgscev.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. 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, jbmssc@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. 25-26 **Roseville, CA.** *Roseville Rock Rollers' "Nature's Wonders"*. Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4.
- Apr. 1-2 **San Jose, CA.** *Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road. Hours: 10-5 both days. Marc Mullaney, (408) 971-6651, geologist@aol.com.
- Apr. 29-30 **Santa Cruz, CA.** *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.* Center and Church Streets. Hours: 10-5 both days. Sallee Brumbaugh, (831) 336-5662.
- May 5-7 **Valley Springs, CA.** *Snyder's PowWow.*
- May 13-14 **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. John Peterson.
- May 20-21 **Newbury Park, CA.** *Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.* Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Rd. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30. Sal Scarpato, (818) 707-9972. salscarpato@sbcglobal.net.
- June 3-4 **La Habra, CA.** *North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society "Jubilee of Gems" Show.* La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: 10-5 both days. Don Warthen, (626) 330-8974, warthen@earthlink.net.

Petrified Wood Seminar

The Petrified Wood Seminar presented by expert, Walt Wright, will once again be hosted by *Fossils For Fun* in conjunction with Sierra College. It is set for March 17-19, 2006 in the Science Hall lab room at Sierra College in Rocklin, California.

Diamond Pacific Tool Corporation

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CO-OP

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Field Trips

Reminder: 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.

Jan. 21-22 **Rodreguez Canyon, Banner, CA** for schorl, rubellite, verdite, aquamarine, common beryl and lepidiolite; also possible to pan for gold in the washes or run-offs of the canyons. Sponsored by the *California Federation of Mineralogical Society*, the *Thursday Mine* and the *Diehard Rockhounds*. The trip is free, but certain restrictions apply. Dry camping is available. Additional information is available in the January 2006 edition of the CFMS newsletter, or contact Thomas Hess, CFMS Field Trip South Co-chair, at: (951) 677-3007 after 6:00 p.m. or by email at thomascarlhess@yahoo.com.

Start Making Your Travel Plans!

CO-OP Member & Other Field Trips for 2006

Listed below are the current CO-OP field trips planned for 2006. Additional information about the trips will be provided as each date nears, but for specific information, contact the club Field Trip Coordinator, Rolf Zschoernig, or check the CO-OP website at: www.coop.5u.com for updates.

You are reminded that you should contact the field trip leader in advance to verify details—climate and weather, tools needed, safety concerns, clothing, vehicle requirements, etc. Be sure to wear your name badge when attending and sign in with the leader upon arrival. Please note that all participants in any CFMS-sponsored field trip must sign a *Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability* form upon arriving at the meeting site, and while guests are always welcome, all non-CFMS members must show proof of personal liability insurance. As always, everyone should obey the AFMS Code of Ethics, the Land Use Policy, and all safety rules and directions of the leader. Always practice safe rockhounding.

More trips will be listed as the year progresses and dates are always subject to change, but start planning now for a fun and successful rockhounding year!

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Jan. 12-16 | Burro Creek, AZ for purple agate. <i>Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Club (NBFT)</i> . |
| Jan. 2-Feb. 3 | Wiley Well, CA for geodes, agate, nodules. <i>Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Club (NBFT)</i> . |
| April 15 | Saw Mill, CA for rhodonite. <i>Paradise Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |
| April 22 | Ceres, CA. Rock Sale from several collections. <i>Mother Lode Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |
| May 27-29 | Coaldale Junction area, NV (the Sump) for petrified wood, opalite, selenite slabs, chalcedony, agate, jasper. Possibly a fee dig. <i>El Dorado Mineral & Gem Club</i> . |
| May 27-29 | Delta, UT for trilobites, other fossils, tour of museum/rock shop. Fee dig. Other sites to be announced later. <i>Fossils for Fun Club</i> . |
| July 8 | Mercer Caverns, CA for caverns tour. <i>Carmichael Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |
| July 15-16 | Elbow Junction, CA for petrified wood, agate and photo opportunities. <i>Carmichael Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |
| Aug 12-13 | Lakeview, OR. Tallman Show and field trips. |
| August | Virgin Valley, NV for opal. <i>Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club</i> . |
| Sept. 2-4 | Cedarville, CA for petrified wood, fossil leaves, agate, obsidian. <i>Fossils for Fun Club</i> . |
| Oct. 7 | Soapstone Ridge, CA for soapstone. <i>Calaveras Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |
| Oct 1-7 | Southern Utah for petrified wood, fossils agate. <i>Fossils for Fun Club</i> . |
| October | Searles Lake, Trona, CA for halite, hanksite, other minerals. |
| November | Barstow, CA area. <i>Mother Lode Gem & Mineral Club</i> . |

(Information correct as of 12/23/05)



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

The Matrix

January 2006



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!!**

To all the members of the Sacramento Mineral Society!

Get Involved in 2006!!!!

See inside for numerous ways you can help.
