

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
June Harris
107 Dell Way
Scotts Valley, CA 95066



Please Deliver Promptly

BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley
Gem and Mineral Society



All American Club

Volume 53
Number 3

San Jose, CA
March 2006

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: John Eichhorn
(408) 749-0523
Vice President: Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584
Secretary: Randy Harris
(831) 438-5150
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791
Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150
Federation Director: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195
Alternate Fed. Director: Frank Monez
(408) 578-7067
Directors:
Larry Moore (650) 941-4966
Pat Speece (408) 266-4327
Lynn Toschi (408) 353-3323
Jane Yamashita (408) 353-2982
Position Open
Historian: Anna Windsor
(408) 926-8624
Parliamentarian: OPEN

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Field Trip Committee Coordinator:
Adam Yamashita
Field Trip Committee: John Eichhorn,
Randy and June Harris, Jennifer
House
Founder's Day Picnic Food:
June and Randy Harris,
Jane and George Yamashita
Founder's Day Picnic Raffle: OPEN
Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn
Hospitality: Rich and Niki Santone
Installation Dinner: Kathy McChristian
Juniors: Mark and Debbie Wartenberg
Gary and Kathy McChristian,
Librarians: June Warne and Nancy Boring
Member Display: Kelly Van Vleck
PLAC: (Public Lands Advisory Committee)
Frank Monez
Program: Bill Gissler
Refreshments: Claire Ferguson
Sargeant-at-arms: Hershall Boring
Show 2006: Marc Mullaney
Show 2007: OPEN
Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri
Social Committee:
June Harris, Claire Ferguson
Sunshine: Ernestine Smith
Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Webmaster: RK Owen

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number (408) 265-1422

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. General meetings are normally held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (The Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032. Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Rd. between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

Our next general meeting will be on March 28, '06 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Our next board meeting will be on March 30, '06 after Show Setup at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Time TBD.

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published monthly. The deadline for most articles is the Sunday before the regular meeting. The Breccia Editor is June Harris, who may be contacted via email at juneconeyharris@yahoo.com or by phone at (831) 438-5150. The Breccia is proofread by Linda Spencer. Ruth Bailey and Bill Norton handle all aspects of mailing. Exchange Bulletins may be sent to June Harris at the following address: 107 Dell Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.

Study Group Leaders

For information on a study group, please call the leader(s) listed below

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Carvers | Herb Vogel | (408) 247-1018 |
| Cutaways | John Eichhorn | (408) 749-0523 |
| Facet Cutters | Bill Norton | (408) 356-8254 |
| Fossileers | Gail Mathews | (650) 962-9960 |
| Juniors | Mark Wartenberg | (650) 568-6114 |
| Mineraleers | Chuck Boblenz | (408) 734-2473 |
| Smithies | Kelly Van Vleck & | (408) 262-8187 |
| | Pat Speece | (408) 266-4327 |
| Stringers | Pat Speece | (408) 266-4327 |

John's Note

The show is coming! Sign up to work during the show. We need all the help we can get. All the jobs can be explained and directed by the people in charge of the individual committees. The jobs need to be filled completely, all day long, for both days. Remember, this is the major fund raiser and promotion for our club.

If you didn't get your club directory or California State Mining & Mineral Museum card, make sure to see the secretary at the next meeting.

The good weather is getting closer, so think about field trips and study group activities that will increase our club member's involvement.

Thank you, John Eichhorn

Juniors Workshop & Rock Sale

When: Saturday, March 18th

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: Mark & Debbie's, 44 Hilltop Drive, Redwood City

Overview: We will have large amounts of collectible rocks and shells on sale at very low prices. All proceeds go towards our club annual scholarship to a San Jose State geology student. We will also be touring through our lapidary workshop and reviewing the three basic types of rocks. There will be free samples for everyone that participates!

*Please come by and take a look at the beautiful rocks that will be available and tour through our rock polishing workshop. For more information, call Mark at (650) 568-6114. Thanks for your continued interest & support!!

June's Jabberings

As many of you may have noticed, the Breccia is going through some changes. The changes are so that I can include more and larger rock articles in the Breccia. For a long time, I've been collecting articles to one day use in our newsletter, and it is becoming apparent that many of the really good articles are several pages long. Many months our newsletter won't accommodate larger articles without sacrificing a club article. That is the main reason for making the changes. The changes thus far have freed up two whole pages.

I am establishing a deadline for articles and reports that are submitted for the Breccia. The DEADLINE for the Breccia will be the Sunday before our regular meeting. There will be only a few exceptions to this deadline. Those exceptions will be member displays, program reviewed, sunshine, meeting minutes, and treasurer's report. The deadline for the stated exceptions is the Friday after the Board Meeting. The main reason for the deadline is to have the Breccia mailed by the first week of the month. I need to get the job done in one week or less. I will try to continue to send out email reminders to the study group leaders, officers, and committee chairman, but don't count on it each and every month.

I apologize for any inconvenience that these new deadlines will place on everyone, but I need to get the Breccia done in a timely fashion.

Thanks, June

Websites:

CFMS

www.cfmsinc.org

AFMS

www.amfed.org

Check out what our study groups are doing!!!



Fossileers by Gail Matthews

Below is a listing of confirmed and proposed activities for the fossileers. Any other ideas or questions, contact Gail Matthews at (650) 962-9960 or cell (714) 403-4104.

March 17-19 Walt Wright will conduct the 6th Annual Petrified Wood Identification Seminar at Sierra College, hosted by the Fossils for Fun Society. For more information, contact Gail.

March 22 Walt Wright will present "Vegetation at the Break Up of Pangea –the Dawn of the Dinosaurs" at the Peninsula Gem and Geology Society in Los Altos at 8:00 pm. Come and see awesome plant specimens and hear a great speaker. For details and directions call Gail.

April 1 - SCVGMS Show. Gail Matthews will present "Fossils and Beyond" as one of our show's program speakers. Gail will also offer a walking tour of the show's fossil displays and dealers' inventory. More details available at the show.

June 10 Join the SCVGMS-sponsored bus trip to the CFMS Show in Angels Camp or drive yourself. Meet at 2:30 for a 1-2 hour walk around to discuss the fossil displays. For those interested in starting or adding to a fossil collection, we can also look at the offerings the various dealers have.

TBD A field trip to the California Museum of Natural History in San Francisco.

December Travel to the Natural History Museum of Santa Cruz for their annual open house. Take a guided walking tour along the beach.



Beginning Smithing Class by Kelly Van Vleck

By the time this goes to press, the Smithies will have finished with this latest class, conducted at Pat Speece's house. All participants have been able so far to make the required pieces, mainly two rings. One ring is a pierced piece and sweat soldered onto a base piece for a nice solid ring. The second piece is a ring with a cabochon. The third piece, being worked on at this time, is a pendant with a cabochon. I think this group of members has shown a great deal of talent. They have come up with some very nice pieces of work. Next class will be an intermediate class, however, we do not have a time schedule at this time. We will keep you informed. I want to especially thank Pat Speece for providing us with a very comfortable workplace in her shed which has places for five members in each class.

MINERALEERS BY CHUCK BOBLENZ



The Mineraleers met on Monday evening with seven members in attendance. The topic for the evening was GOLD. Bill Gissler provided a slide program from the CFMS library that showed some excellent specimens of gold and some of the specifics and history of gold finding throughout the US. In addition there were a number of books and booklets for people to peruse, and Bill brought a gold rocker that he had made for everyone to look at and see how one works. He attests to finding gold using this unit and is very interested in locating other people who may have similar interests to share techniques of building a similar unit and/or ideas for its use. The meeting was adjourned to the kitchen where Jeri served delicious refreshments and gold discussions continued.

The next meeting will be held on April 17 at the Boblenz' residence, and the topic will again be GOLD. There will be a lecture about the Original 16 To 1 Mine given by the CEO of the mining operation, Michael Miller. This lecture was given a few years back at one of our shows and was captured on video tape by Frank Monez. So, plan now to come out and hear about the mining operation of one of the most prolific producers of specimen gold in our state.

The May meeting is planned to offer hands-on panning for those who may be interested. Hopefully the weather will be nice and it will be light enough for each attendee to get their try at panning. So if you have similar interests, then come out and join us.

Respectfully,
Chuck Boblenz



CUTAWAYS

The Cutaways group will be meeting on May 6 from 10-12 at Shoup Park. Call John Eichhorn at (408) 749-0523 for information and driving directions.

Stringers 2006 by Pat Speece



Stringers, all eleven of us, met for an introduction to stringing and a preview of coming attractions. Class members were taught how to make eyepins, practiced making these essential elements of most of our projects, and went home with about three feet of wire for practice. Our first project is using bulk chain and all the accessories to make necklaces, bracelets, and earrings --- using eyepins in many cases. Each month we feature a different project.

Member Displays By Kelly Van Vleck

Don Cox had on display photos of his new granddaughter, a beautiful 9 lb. 7 oz. baby girl, born on February 28th. The grandparents are very proud. John Eichhorn displayed some impressive pieces of jade recovered from Jade Cove during a minus tide this past month. Dennis Ewell shared with us his collection of spheres from various types of material. He requested that members assist him in identifying some of the material.

Georgiana Rudge from the Evergreen College brought a box of a variety of rocks and minerals for which she was seeking identification. I'm sure the members were able to help her in the identification, if not all of them, at least some. Georgiana is setting up a display of rocks and minerals at the College with the assistance of some of our club members, one of whom is James Robertson. Thanks Georgiana for your participation.

George and Jane Yamashita had on display quite an extensive array of photos taken from their recent trip to New Zealand, also some jade and bone carvings. They spent several weeks touring the islands.

Those people who are to display something rock-related in the month of March are Dodi and Talia Friedenber, JT Fuller, Misako Fuller, Dan Gehret, Jennie Gibson, Bill Gissler, Garth Hagen, Randy and June Harris, and Ramona Heimlich. The March program will be on Idaho geology and gems. If you have anything from the Idaho area, bring it to share.

Rouge for anyone: Black, green, red, white, and yellow

Polishing compounds:

Black Rouge is for gold, silver, and German Silver. Gives a high polish

Green Rouge is for platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and hard materials

Red Rouge is for gold, silver, and soft metals and materials

White Rouge is for the harder metals: platinum, chrome, stainless and some of the harder material

Yellow Rouge is for roughing in, as it cuts faster. It usually has a base of beeswax to hold the polish in. It is for hard materials such as chrome and stainless steel

Reference Homer's Corner, via Paradise Gem 11/05

SUNSHINE

Carl Schultze recently passed away. He and his wife, Ellen, were very active in our club for a number of years. Ellen was the President of the CFMS and she presented programs on their work in Africa for a number of years. Ellen also had a wonderful ability to play rocks as musical instruments.

Don Cox announced at our last meeting that he has a new addition to his family. A lovely granddaughter was born on February 28. She weighed 9 lbs and 7 oz. Congratulations!

Mary Brown sent a note to Kelly Van Vleck and asked to be remembered to everyone.

If you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact our new sunshine person, Ernestine Smith, (408) 395-5035.

March Program Idaho Geology and Gems

Our program for March will be a 30-minute VHS on the geology and gems of Idaho. A brief introductory overview of Idaho's geology will be presented by an eminent area geologist. The program will then swiftly focus on Star Garnet, Idaho's state gemstone. A description will follow on how it is found in the field, how the stone is cut and polished, and how it was officially designated the State's gemstone. The program will then just as quickly move into placer and hard rock gold mining. It will conclude with a section on Bruneau jasper, where it is found, and how it can be polished and made into beautiful cabachon jewelry. The program is a must for every rockhound. Don't miss this one. If you have specimens from this area, please bring them for member displays (show and tell).

Member News

We would like to welcome a new member to our club. Carol Pimentel, 6647 Catamaran St., San Jose, CA 95119
acpimentel@earthlink.net (408) 229-2320.

A correction to new directory:

Norton, Bill and Margaret
(408) 356-8254

2006 Show Reports

Show Chairman: We are on the final countdown for the show, less than 30 days and counting. Reminders, Listen to KRTY and KBAY for our radio ads the week before the show and check out the give-a-ways announced on KRTY and on the web on KBAY's website. Setup meeting will be on Monday, March 13 at Ruth's house, and the final deadline for all lists for the program to June Harris on March 10th. Our next regular meeting is on the 28th and your last chance to sign up to help at the show. We have about half of the spots filled. The jobs that still need sign-ups include: Hospitality, Scholarship Booth, Tickets, Security, and the Touch and Feel Table. We also need demonstrators, decorations (for table corners we need plants, driftwood, etc.), setup help on March 30 and 31 and teardown on Sunday starting at 5 pm. See you at the next meeting and at setup on the 30th. Contact me, Marc Mullaney, Show Chairman, if there are any questions.

Door Prizes: Our show attendees love to win door prizes. We need approximately 40 door prizes. Our club additionally provides two cash door prizes of \$100 and \$50. We need members to provide nice rock, mineral, or fossil specimens or jewelry items like rings, earrings, bracelets, pendants, and necklaces.

Please give your name and a description of what you would like to donate to Suzi Papineau. She will be accepting door prizes between now and the show. Please include the name of the stone in the item you would like to donate. Let's make sure Suzi has plenty of items for the door prizes. Questions call Suzi (408) 267-1620.

Hospitality Booth: Do you like to meet new people? Are you friendly? Would you like to share your club knowledge with the public? Yes to any of the above questions? I need your help at the hospitality booth. We have developed a plan to try to increase club membership. We will be talking to people as they pass the hospitality booth. The objective is to get their email address for monthly reminders of the meetings and club events. If you would like to be involved with the endeavor, contact June Harris at (831) 438-5150 or a club meeting.

Touch and Feel Table: John Eichhorn is overseeing this table. He needs large, heavy specimens of a variety of materials. If you have an unusual large rock that you would like to share at the touch and feel table, contact him at (408) 749-0523.

Radio Advertising: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You As of the February meeting, we have had a num-

ber of donations for the radio advertising campaign. June and Randy Harris donated a wire wrapped, Dichroic glass pendant, Jane and George Yamashita donated a watch and bracelet set and a pearl necklace, Mark Mullaney donated a rock sphere, Adam Yamashita donated two jade pendants on silver chains, Pat Speece donated two bracelets. We also have promises of a few more items from club members. All of these donations will go towards helping the club with a different kind of advertising for the show. Many of us put in a great deal of work to make the show happen, and whatever we can do to get people there to enjoy it is a good thing. Thanks again to the people who have donated items and anyone else that is planning to donate something. The sooner the better as we have to get them lined up with the two radio stations.

Lucky Dip: Kelly Van Vleck is gathering items for the Lucky Dip Table at the show. If you have anything that you would like to donate to this table at the show, contact Kelly (408) 262-8187.

Yard Signs: Call Frank or Julaine, (408) 226-1791, if you have yard signs. They are making new stickers for the signs. Make sure you let them know the dimensions of the signs you have.

Member Exhibits: Lynn Toschi is in charge of member exhibits this year. He wants to encourage each and every member to participate. We are all members of this club because we are passionate about some facet of collecting, polishing, or displaying rocks, gems, and minerals. Now is the time for you to show your fellow members, and the public in general, what turns you on about this wonderful hobby.

On our club website, you will find information on how to make case liners and a display case entry form. If you have questions on how to make display case liners, please feel free to call Lynn at (408) 353-3323, or if anyone has any comments or input, call Lynn. Display Case Entry forms are available online and at our regular meeting. If you can't get a form off the Internet or at a club meeting, call Lynn. Please get your display forms in the mail immediately. Deadline for entries is March 12, 2006. Remember, this is YOUR show, PARTICIPATE, PARTICIPATE, PARTICIPATE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCVGMS Calendar



March 17-19 Walt Wright's Petrified Wood seminar (see Fossileers notice page 4)
March 18 Juniors meeting and rock sale at Mark and Debbie Wartenberg's home.
March 22 Walt Wright's "Vegetation at the Break Up of Pangea –the Dawn of the Dinosaurs" presentation at Peninsula Club Meeting (see Fossileers notice page 4)
March 25 North Bay Field Trip Meeting
March 28 **Regular business meeting at 7:45 PM, Program on Idaho Gems**
March 30 Board meeting immediately after show setup at Fairgrounds
March 30-31 Show setup
April 1-2 Annual Show
April 17 Mineraleers meeting at 7:30 PM at Chuck Boblenz's home
April 22 **Club outing** CAL Day at University at Berkeley 9-4
April 25 **Potluck at 6:30 PM/ Regular business meeting at 7:45 PM Program and speaker on Yemenite Jewelry.**
April 27 Board meeting at Randy and June Harris' home (831) 438-5150 at 7:30
May 6 Cutaways Meeting at Shoup Park
May 6-7 Study Group Demonstration Weekend 9-5 at the Cabana Club
May 23 **Regular business meeting at 7:45 Program on Oregon Thundereggs**
May 25 Board meeting location TBD
June 3-4 USGS Open House at Menlo Park 9-5
June 9-11 CFMS Show in Angels Camp
June 10 Club Bus Trip to CFMS Show reservations required. Form on Page 12
June 27 **BBQ and Potluck 6:30 /Regular business meeting and Silent Auction 7:45 PM**
June 29 Board meeting at Frank Mullaney's home (408) 266-1791.
July 16 Founder's Day Picnic
July 25 Regular business meeting
July 27 Board meeting— Location TBD
August 22 **BBQ/ Potluck at 6:30** Regular business meeting at 7:45

AFMS Regional Shows for 2006

Eastern Federation (EFMS)

November 18-19 in West Palm Beach, FL

Midwest Federation (MWF)

May 19-21 in Southgate, MI

Northwest Federation (NFMS)

July 14-16 in Kelso, WA

Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS)

June 9-11 in Stillwater, OK

South Central Federation (SCMS)

August Date TBA in Bossier City, LA

Southeast Federation (SFMS) - AFMS

August 14-20 in Nashville, TN hosted by Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Convention 15 - 20 - Show 18 - 20
Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway
Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Creative Arts Bldg; Wedgewood Avenue
Show hours: Fri./Sat. 9 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Lewis Elrod (615) 893-8270
Email lfelrod@yahoo.com

Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

Contact Adam Yamashita (831) 335-9460 or John Eichhorn (408) 749-0523 for information about the below field trips. Adam or John will make the appropriate introductions for you to be able to attend.

April 8-9 Nevada City CA, for petrified wood and gold

April 15 Saw Mill CA, for Rhodonite

April 22 Ceres CA, Rock Sale from several collections

April 22 Jade Cove CA, for jade

May 20 Clear Creek CA for jade, jadeite,

May 27-29 Coaldale Junction NV, for Petrified wood, opalite, selenite slabs, chalcedony, agate, jasper, and possibly a fee dig

May 27-29 Delta UT, fee dig for trilobites and other fossils

July 15-16 Elbow Junction CA, for petrified wood and agate,

August 12-13 Lakeview OR, Tallman Show and Field trips

Aug ? Virgin Valley NV for opal

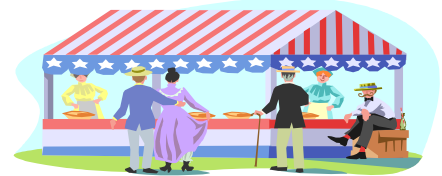
Sept 2-4 Cedarville CA, for petrified wood, fossil leaves, agate, and obsidian

Oct 2-6 Petrified Forest National Park AZ

Oct 7 Soapstone Ridge CA, for soapstone

Oct 14-15 Searles Lake, Trona, CA for halite, hanksite, and other minerals

CFMS Show Schedule



Changes to this calendar are printed in italics. For the latest version of the CFMS Show Schedule go to www.cfmsinc.org

March 18-19 2006, Bakersfield, CA Southern San Joaquin Lapidary Society 4th Annual Bakersfield Rock & Gem Rendezvous Kern County Fair Grounds 1142 South P Street & Bell Terrace Gates 28, 29 & 30 Hours: 9 - 5 both days

March 24, 25, 26 2006, San Bernardino, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Western Regional Little League Ball Park 6707 Little League Drive, San Bernardino, CA Hours: Fri/Sat. 9-6 p.m. Sun. 9-4 p.m. Mike Woolery (909) 882-6806 Al Carrell (951) 961-5988

March 25-26 2006, Roseville, CA Roseville Rock Rollers 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Nature's Wonders Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10-4

April 1 2006, Porterville, CA Porterville Gem & Mineral Society Play Day Hosting Diamond Pacific Tool Corp. 318 N. Kessing St. Hours: 10 - 4 Rob Milner (559) 359-6174 Email rdmilner@verizon.net

April 1-2 2006, 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 Email GEOLOGISTM@aol.com

April 8-9 2006, Paradise, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Club Gems & Jewelry Show Veterans Memorial Hall Skyway & Elliott Road Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Jim & Shirley Thompson (530) 872-1846 Email shirley1846@comcast.net

April 22-23 2006, Lancaster, CA Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H Hours: 9 - 5 both days Pamela Birge (661) 264-3502 Email birgep@att.net Show Website: www.geocities.com/av_gem

April 29-30 2006, Santa Cruz, CA Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Corner of Center & Church Streets Hours: 10 - 5 both days Sallee Brumbaugh (831) 336-5662

May 6-7 2006, Bakersfield, CA Kern County Mineral Society Art in Stone Kern County Fairgrounds 1142 South P Street Hours: 10 - 5 both days Buster Ordiway (661) 563-8310 Email CaOrdPTA@aol.com

May 6-7 2006, Anaheim, CA Searchers Gem & Mineral Society 2271 W. Crescent Avenue Hours: 10 - 4:30 both days Beth Pelfrey - Email beth714sc-rocks@yahoo.com Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 6-7 2006, Bishop, CA Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Show Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Francis Pedneau (760) 876-4319 or Jeff Lines (760) 872-6597 Email franceem@qnet.com

May 13-14 2006, Reno, NV Reno Gem & Mineral Society "Jackpot of Gems" Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall 1350 N. Wells Ave. Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 John Peterson

May 19, 20, 21 2006, Anderson, CA Superior CA Gem & Mineral Association Shasta County Fairgrounds Hours: Fri/Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Steve Puderbaugh (530) 365-4000

May 20-21 2006, Yucaipa, CA Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Yucaipa Community Center 34900 Oak Glen Road Hours: Sat. 9 - 5;

Sun. 10 - 4 William Jochimsen (909) 790-1475 Email bjm2285@aol.com

May 20-21 2006, 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 Email SALSCARPATO@SBCGLOBAL.NET

May 27-29 2006, Weaverville, CA Trinity Gem & Mineral Society Annual Bigfoot Gemboree Hours: Sat/Sun. 10 - 5; Mon. 10 - 4 Jack Jennewein (530) 778-3786

June 3-4 2006, Glendora, CA Glendora Gem & Mineral Show 859 E. Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638 Email: YBidwell2@aol.com

June 3-4 2006, 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 Email: warthen@earthlink.net

June 9-11 2006, CFMS Show at Angels Camp, CA Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds Hours: 10-5 daily Website: calaverasgemandmineral.org

August 4-6 2006, Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society "Earth's Treasures" St. Joseph's Church 298 South Thompson Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 daily Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788

September 23-24 2006, San Diego, CA San Diego Lapidary Society Bernardo Winery 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte Rancho Bernardo Hours: 10 - 4 both days Kim Hutsell; (619) 294-3914 Website: www.sandiegolapidarysociety.org

October 14-15 2006, Grass Valley, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Earth's Treasures Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 MC Courtney Road Hours: 10 - 4 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

October 14-15 2006, Grass Valley, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Earth's Treasures Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 MC Courtney Road Hours: 10 - 4 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

October 14-15 2006, Trona, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society "Gem-o-Rama" Searles Lake Gem & Mineral 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4 Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356 Email jbfairchild@verizon.net

October 21-22 2006, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta District Fairgrounds Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 Alex Stoltz (530) 474-4400

October 21-22 2006, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta District Fairgrounds Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 Alex Stoltz (530) 474-4400

October 28-29 2006, Vista, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society 1200 Vale Terrace Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Mary Anne Mital (760) 758-4599

February Program Reviewed
New Zealand— Rocks, minerals,
geology and a travelogue
By Bill Gissler
SCVGMS Program Chairman

A two week trip to New Zealand in March 2003 was an introduction to this geologically fascinating land and a reason for a more extended six week trip in 2005. On my first trip I purchased a half dozen books and pamphlets on geology, land formation and jade. These only whetted my appetite to learn more about this young and active landscape. Ancient rocks which were uplifted and exposed in the last million years formed the mountains, valleys and plains of this unique land.

Today, entry to New Zealand for most American and European visitors is the Auckland International Airport on the North Island. For a rock hound/geologist type visitor, the City of 48 volcanoes is an absolutely appropriate place to start.

New Zealand lies at the junction between two large tectonic plates that form the outer most layer of the earth. The Pacific Plate on the east is being sub-ducted under the Indian Australian Plate on the west. At the same time the North Island and the westerly side of the South Island are moving north easterly along the Alpine Fault. Same story as in North American, where the Pacific Plate is being sub-ducted under the North American Plate and the land west of the San Andreas Fault is moving northerly. All of this makes for some interesting rock formations and hydrothermal mineral deposits.

To further an understanding of this unique geology, the New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, similar to the U.S. Geological Survey, have compiled extensive geological maps and published numerous books and pamphlets. Recently, private geologists and scientists have also produced some excellent books.

The search for gold, jade and gemstones has been an active pursuit since the mid 1800's. Jade has been prized by the Maori, "native people," since their arrival in 850 BC. The range of interest to a visiting rock hound/geologist are many. On the North Island learn about:

- (1) the formation of amber from the sap of the Kauri trees in the northern area;
- (2) the creation of Auckland and the vein gold fields of the Coromandel Peninsula from volcanoes in the central area;
- (3) the formation of lakes Rotaruri and Taupo and the geothermal springs in the southern area.

On the South Island:

- (1) learn about the rise and fall of the Southern Alps;
- (2) visit the extensive marine fossil sites on the Otago Peninsula;
- (3) explore the alluvial gold fields in the Otago, the West Coast and the Nelson areas discovered in the 1860's;
- (4) learn about jade and visit the jade factories on the West Coast;
- (5) view unique geological formations like the Pancake Rocks, Punakaiki, the Moeraki boulders and the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers.

Every rock hound/geologist should visit New Zealand, the "land down-under".

PLAC Report
By Frank Monez

This is a letter that I recently received regarding an upcoming meeting for the BLM's Resource Advisory Council. Anyone with interest in our local public lands should attend this meeting.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA
95023 (831) 630-5000 fax (831) 630-5055
www.ca.blm.gov/hollister
In refer reply to: 1150(P) (CA-190.34)

March 1, 2006

Dear Interested Parties:

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open public forum during our upcoming Resource Advisory (RAC) meeting in Aptos, CA on Friday, March 24, 2006. The meeting will be held in the Seabreeze conference room at the Best Western Seacliff Inn located at 7500 Old Dominion Court. The public comment period is scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Directions: Hwy 1 (traveling North) Exit State Park Drive, turn right, then immediately left on Old Dominion.

Hwy 1 (traveling South) Exit State Park Drive, Turn left on State Park Drive, cross the freeway and turn left on Old Dominion.

Some of the topics that you may want to comment on are the Proposed Business Plan to collect fees in the Clear Creek Management Plan, regional management planning efforts, recreation, grazing, cultural resources, land access, and the 7,000 acre Coast Dairies property (located near Davenport) soon to be acquired by BLM and managed by the Hollister Field Office.

If you have any questions, please call Lesly Smith, Assistant Field Manager at (831) 630-5010

Sincerely,
George E. Hill
Field Manager

Bruneau Jasper

Via Mendo Coast Gems 1/04, via Napa Gems 10/03

Did you ever wonder why you see so little Bruneau jasper and when you do, why it is so expensive? It is only found in Idaho's Bruneau Canyon and it occurs in only one area along the steep walls of the canyon. It is commonly known as a 'thunder egg' formation which is extremely rare. Bruneau jasper has beautiful designs and ranges in colors of red, tan, and brown. It is a pleasure to work with and polishes to a high luster. The claim where it is found is privately held, and permission to dig is rarely given. This makes the rock more valuable due to the demand (exceeding the controlled supply).

Safety

By Chuck McKie, Safety Chair

From the CFMS newsletter 01/06

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 well away from any combustible/flammable items or materials and must never be left unattended. The increasing popularity of candle usage has led to a dramatic increase in the number of tragic fires. In case of a 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 a window.

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

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Be Safe-Be Well

By Don Monroe AFMS Safety Chair

From the AFMS Newsletter 02/06

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 our 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.

1. I will read and distribute to my students all of the brochures that are included with tools, equipment, and products that we are using.

2. I will copy and distribute to the students all of the articles and advertisements dealing with potential hazards.

3. When I have doubt about a product, process, or tool, I will contact the manufacturer and request a MSDS or other safety information.

4. Although I always cover safety issues at the beginning of each class session, I will go much further with my coverage of these issues.

5. 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?

Rx FOR ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

By Ed Pederson

via the CFMS Newsletter 02/06, via the Pick and Shovel, via SCFMS Newsletter 7/95

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 gross over-simplifications based on real and perceived attitudes of rockhounds and the general public: 1) Mineral collecting is only for people with money. 2) 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). 3) Lapidary work, especially faceting, takes a lot of expensive equipment and space. 4) 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 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. According to my unofficial survey, the valuable and desirable new members are young adults and middle aged adults (ages 20-50). If this is true, a club effort to target these individuals is required.

What factors are important to these individuals?

1. 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.
2. Club meeting times that fit the schedules of working people, especially those with smaller children.
3. A minimum of work requirements.
4. A maximum of field trips and other "exciting events."
5. A minimum of club business conducted at meetings. Members come to visit and see the program, not hear something they can read in the newsletter.
6. A strong emphasis on "show and tell" at meetings (display tables for before and after meeting discussions)

What are the best sources of new members of all ages? 1) club show 2) offering classes or study groups to the local community (senior centers, recreation agencies, parks, and recreation districts) 3) Word of mouth 4) 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, adults bringing their kids, not the other way around.

Buff Polishing Compound Combinations

by Ralph and Audrey Belair of the Spokane Rock Rollers originally published in the Northwest Newsletter 8/92, via Nickel Basin Rockhound 6/05, via Chips and Chats 9/05

The following are combinations recommended by experienced gem cutters.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Calcite | Muslin and Tin Oxide Velvet and Tin Oxide |
| Feldspar | Felt and Cerium Oxide |
| Garnet | Leather and Linde A Leather and Chrome Oxide Felt and Cerium Oxide |
| Goldstone | Felt and Cerium Oxide Pellon and Cerium Oxide |
| Howlite | Felt and Tin Oxide Leather and Linde A |
| Jadeite | Leather and Linde A Leather and Chrome Oxide Muslin and Tin Oxide Velvet and Tin Oxide |
| Jasper | Felt and Cerium Oxide Leather and Linde A |
| Lapis Lazuli | Leather and Linde A Leather and Chrome Oxide |
| Malachite | Leather and Linde A Leather and Chrome Oxide |
| Nephrite | Leather and Linde A Leather and Chrome Oxide Muslin and Tin Oxide Wood and Tin Oxide Velvet and Tin Oxide |
| Opal | Felt and Cerium Oxide Velvet and Tin Oxide Muslin and Tin Oxide |
| Quartz | Felt and Cerium Oxide Leather and Cerium Oxide Pellon and Cerium Oxide Felt and Tin Oxide |
| Rhodocrosite | Leather and Linde A Leather and Tin Oxide Leather and Diamond |
| Serpentine | Leather and Linde A Leather and Tin Oxide |
| Sodalite | Felt and Cerium Oxide |
| Tiger Eye | Leather and Linde A Pellon and Cerium Oxide |
| Turquoise | Leather and Linde A Leather and Tin Oxide Leather and Zam |
| Unakite | Felt and Cerium Oxide |
| Variscite | Leather and Linde A Leather and Tin Oxide |

Flat Lapping– Making Rocks Shiny The Old-Fashioned Way

Via the Rock Pick and Chisel 11/05, via Ozark Earth Science News, 12/03, via Quarry Quips 11/03,

The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have a flat lapping machine. So go to it and polish the bookends you want or that clock face.

Just get a piece of aluminum about 12 to 14 inches square (larger for larger pieces). Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit (or even 90 grit if you have saw marks on your slab) Mix your grit with Vaseline or water. (I like Vasoline because it holds the grit better, doesn't dry out, and doesn't splash.

Now take your slab to be polished and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold it down on the grit. Be

sure that your grit is always under the slab. Don't run it over dry aluminum. Move the slab in any pattern you wish, adding grit as you feel necessary.

Keep at it until all the saw marks are well gone. Wash your stone and aluminum between grades of grit using progressively finer grits as you go. The slab should now be ready for polishing.

To polish, use a piece of leather about 12x12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tack heads can scratch. Put your favorite polishing mix all over the leather and start polishing your stone. This is the oldest way to polish slabs and it still works well, if slowly.

In answer to the statement that it will take a long time; a question, "What else would you be doing?"

Bus Trip Planned to the CFMS Show in Angels Camp

Our club is subsidizing a bus trip to the CFMS Show in Angels Camp on June 10, 2006. There are 45 seats available for our members. The cost for members and their guests is \$10.00 per person, and Junior members are free. This cost is for only the bus trip. Additional expenses, including food and the show entrance fee, are the attendee's responsibility. Juniors must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The bus will leave the Moonlight Shopping center (at the intersection of El Camino Real and Keily Blvd) in Santa Clara at 7:00 AM sharp and will return around 7:00 PM. **Be prepared to be at the shopping center at least 15 minutes early.** Please send the below form and your check to the address below immediately, as any unfilled seats are being offered to neighboring clubs as of March 1. Your seat will only be held with a check. **Deadline for reservations is April 25 meeting. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis. Get your checks in immediately.**

.....
Please make your checks out to: SCVGMS

Send your check to Herb Vogel, 2242 De Paul Place, Santa Clara, CA 95051

Please reserve the following seats:

Adult member or any guest (non member/any age) _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Number of SCVGMS Junior Members _____

Names of attendees: _____

Spencer Opal by Mike Baldwin

From the RockCollector, 2/04, via Gem Cutters News 10/05

Spencer, Idaho, population 38, is home to one of the largest opal deposits in the United States. Two lost deer hunters discovered opal in this area in 1948 and the first claim was filed in 1952,

Today there are four commercial opal companies there. Though white is the most common color around the world, Spencer miners find rare red, pink and blue opal.

The primary formation of the Spencer opal mines is a rhyolite and obsidian flow filled with gas pockets. The secondary deposit is a solution of silica and water, trapped within the rock and released by a series of geysers. As a result of several eruptions over a period of time, the opal is found in layers. Most of the layers are very thin. These thin layers, hydrothermally deposited inside hollow geodes, produce some extremely high quality precious opal which is very transparent with great color intensity. Opal is brittle, heat sensitive, and it scratches or breaks easily. Some varieties even self destruct through loss of water. Even with these delicate qualities, opal remains as a precious gemstone, due to its unsurpassed beauty.

The word opal is derived from the Roman word "opalus" and the Greek word "opallios", meaning "to see a change of color." The Greek word was a modification of the ancient Indian Sanskrit name for opal, "upala" which meant "precious stone." To combine the derivatives of the opal name, opallios upala, would yield the meaning, "to see a change of color precious stone." Opal has been a treasured gemstone for centuries. Romans adored the opal as a token of hope and purity. Greeks thought that opal yielded foresight and prophecy. Arabs thought that it was a gift from heaven, and Asians viewed it as sacred.

Opal is the most colorful of all gems. The flashes of iridescent color seen in an opal change dependent upon the angle from which the stone is viewed. The value of an opal is determined by the intensity and distribution of these flashes of color.

Crazing (internal cracking) may occur in opals if they are removed from damp conditions and allowed to dry too quickly. Crazing may also take place from vibration, such as during the cutting and polishing of specimens. A very gradual drying process over months, or sometimes even years, can sometimes stabilize stone and allow it to be cut and polished. Opals which show a play of color are called precious opals and those that do not show a play of color are called common opal. The most desired opal is a black opal, which has a dark blue, dark green, or black background and a strong play of color. White opal (white, yellow, or cream) with a strong play of color is also highly desired followed by Mexican fire opal, which is a transparent or translucent orange-red common opal.

The Spencer Opal Mines are located in South-

eastern Idaho, about 70 miles north of Idaho Falls along I-15, 70 miles west of Yellowstone National Park, and 80 miles south of Dillon, Montana. The mines are not open to the public, but there are several times throughout the year when you can dig (for a fee). For more information about the mines and digging times, call (208) 374-5476 (May to October) (928) 859-3752 (November-April) or email <Info@SpencerOpalMines.com>

References:

Idaho's high desert Hides Opal: <www.opalstore.com/news_1.htm>, November 5, 2003

Headquarters of the Original Spencer Opal Mine; <www.SpencerOpalMine.com> November 5, 2003

The Garnet Group

By Mary Fraser,

via 9/04 Grindings, via Rockin Around, 3/02

The garnet group is made up of silicate minerals with similar crystal structure. They have a hardness of 6.5—7.5, streak white, a luster vitreous, greasy, or resinous, and are transparent to opaque, coming in all colors except blue. They occur in gneiss mica schists, dolomitic metamorphic rocks, and frequently in sands. They are rare in igneous rocks. The occurrence is worldwide. Garnets are used as grinding and polishing agents and as gemstones.

The garnet groups are divided into two series of minerals: pyrope series named after its three members pyrope, almandine, spessartite and ugrandite series named after uvarovite, grossularite, and andradite.

Almandine: (iron aluminum) common garnet. Forms in schist in areas of regional metamorphism. Colors are brown, red-violet, and almost black.

Andradite: (Calcium-iron) occurs in metamorphic rocks. Colors are brown-black (melanite), colorless, green (demantoid), and yellow.

Grossularite: (calcium-aluminum) found in metamorphosed impure limestones and limy shales where aluminum is high and iron is low. Colors include colorless, green (tsavorite variety), yellowish, brown, red, and brown-orange (hessonite variety).

Pyrope: (magnesium-aluminum) also known as carbuncle, bohemian garnet, and cape ruby. Pyrope occurs in silica poor rocks such as kimberlites. Colors are red, brown-red, and the rose-red (rhodolite variety).

Spessartite: (manganese-aluminum) associated with manganese ores of metamorphic origins. Colors are yellow, orange, and red-brown.

Article continued on page 14

Garnet group article continued from page 13.

Uvarovite: (calcium-chromium) origin is metamorphic. Its color is emerald green from chromium.

Garnets are among the commonest minerals. They crystallize in the cubic system as 12-sided dodecahedrons or 24-sided trapezohedrons or a combination of both.

In ancient times garnets were called carbuncles. Ancient Egyptians valued them as ornamental stones and they were considered to be the bearers of well being and family harmony. Greek and Roman citizens believed the bearer to be favored with inheritance. Garnets are found on the Breastplate of Aaron. It is said these "stones of health" extract negative energy from the chakras and transmit it to the beneficial state. Also known as the "stone of commitment" garnets monitor and adjust the flow of energy around the physical body and align the emotional and intellectual bodies. Garnet is also reported to enhance the assimilation of iodine, calcium, magnesium, and vitamins A, D, & E into the body.

The Unsolved Mystery of Blue Amber

By Hermann Dittrich hdittrich@ambarazul.com
via The Mountain Gem 01/06, via The Calgary Lapdiary Journal 03/05

Blue amber is only found in one country: in the Caribbean, in the Dominican Republic.

There are several theories about the origin of the color and it is not fully understood what causes the blue color in amber. We know that it is a result of fluorescence and no solid color. Ultra-violet or violet light is re-emitted as blue or green light attributed to the presence of poly-nuclear aromatic molecules. (Gemology, Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr., Robert C. Kammerling)

This makes a lot of sense, because the best way to test blue amber is holding it under an ultra-violet lamp where even the darkest space blue amber changes its color to a radiant cobalt-blue. And, we have noticed that blue amber can be recognized by a very agreeable smell, which is different from regular amber when it is being cut and polished.

One theory links the color in Dominican blue amber to the occurrence of volcanic ash or dust which was present when the resin was first pressed out from *hymenaea protera* millions of years ago.

Another suggests that due to volcanic activity hot lava must have flown over these areas where regular amber was buried under ground. Due to extreme heat, the amber changed its color first to green and then to blue. Experiments have shown that a change of color occurs when normal amber is heated up.

Another detail seems to fit this theory: There are virtually no animal or plant inclusions to be found in

blue amber.

Dr. G. Bechly of the Naturkunde museum in Tübingen, Germany writes: "The large absence of inclusions could fit very well into the hypothesis, that the blue amber was secondarily warmed up and melted, since this way such inclusions were destroyed (cooked) (as it is also in the case with the Sarawak amber)." G. Bechly bechly.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de

While the mystery around the origin of its color has not been cleared, one thing is sure: Blue Amber is beautiful and it is extremely rare. <http://www.ambarazul.com>

Tips and Hints

These are untested by the editor of this newsletter.

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

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

From Brad Smith on LA-Rocks via the Agatizer 05/03, via The Tektite 05/04

Lapidary Hint Polishing a stone all over and edges, acts as a sealer. It seals and keeps water in opal; it prevents natural corrosion in Rhodonite (that corrodes to a black ore called wad) and it helps stop the absorption of harmful substances such as perspiration. Via Rock Rollers 12/04, via Owyhee Gem 11/04

Polishing Tip It is possible to polish almost any material to a high polish in the tumbler, including the stubborn Apache tears, by using one pound of cerium oxide with dry corn meal for the final polish. USE DRY, and tumble for three days. via Rock Rollers 12/04, via Pebble Trails 10/04, via Golden Spike News 05/03

**Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2006**

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. Minutes were approved as printed in the Breccia. The Board meeting will be at Marc Mullaney's home Thursday March 2nd at 7:30 PM.

New Members: Vito Cangemi, John Belcher, Robert Belcher, Dodi Freidenberg, and Talia Freidenberg were presented with their new member packets.

Hospitality: There were 50 members and 6 guests in attendance tonight.

Sunshine: Carl Schultze passed away in February. Mary Brown sends her regards. Don Cox has a new granddaughter.

Correspondence: We received show fliers from other clubs, Martin Zinn Expositions fliers, a letter from Richard J. Lauth regarding his article in Rock and Gem Magazine.

PLAC: See details in the Breccia

Study Groups: See details in the Breccia.

Show Report: Marc Mullaney gave a report on the 2006 show. See details in the Breccia.

Field Trips: See details in the Breccia.

The new directories have been printed. See Randy Harris to get your copy.

There will be a Scholarship workday and rock sale at the Wartenbergs on March 11th.

Member Displays: Don Cox had pictures of his granddaughter, John Eichhorn showed some jade he collected at Jade Cove, Geogiana Rudge had some minerals to be identified, and Dennis Ewell brought in some spheres to share.

Program: Bill Gissler gave the program for tonight on his travels to New Zealand. He has some very interesting displays and presented a very informative speech.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Harris, Secretary

**Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2006**

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the home of Ruth Bailey. All board members were present except Jane Yamashita and Frank Mullaney. Parliamentarian and one director position remain vacant. Also present were George Yamashita and Herb Vogel. Minutes for the January 26, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected for the Show meeting date.

Treasurer's Report: M/ S/ P to pay the bills.

Communications: None

New Members: M/ S/ P to accept Carol Pimentel for membership.

Committee Reports: There will be a show setup meeting March 13th at 7:30 PM at Ruth Bailey's home. There was discussion of advertising. There was discussion of the lack of entries for member display cases. M/ S/ P to purchase the ads in the Mercury News and their satellite publications. (30 spots)

Federation Report: There will be honorary membership extended to Bob Jones and William S. Wise. There was discussion of insurance to cover officers and directors. We also need to purchase insurance for the show.

PLAC: See details in the Breccia.

Field Trips: There are field trips being planned for Jade Cove on April 22nd and Clear Creek on May 20th.

Unfinished Business: There was discussion about a use agreement for Shoup Park lapidary shop and equipment maintenance fees. Discussion was tabled until after the show. There was discussion about materials for the Beaders group and other study groups. M/ S/ P to allot study groups a \$400 allowance for equipment and supplies per year. Study groups are to charge reasonable use fees to cover cost of materials and equipment maintenance.

New Business: M/ S/ P to purchase a gift for Gary Shara to show our appreciation for his help with the TV show. M/ S/ P to pay Kelly Van Vleck \$32 per session to cover fuel costs for the silver classes.

M/ S/ P to adjourn at 9:30 PM

Marc Mullaney served refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Harris

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Treasurer's Report
February 26, 2006

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance: | | \$17,186.67 |
| Receipts | | |
| Robert Belcher's Dues | \$ 15.00 | |
| John Belcher's Dues | \$ 15.00 | |
| Rock Sale | <u>\$475.00</u> | |
| Total Receipts | | \$505.00 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Pat Speece Stringer's Expense | \$ 36.76 | |
| Ruth Bailey Postage | \$ 60.00 | |
| Expressions Membership directory | \$ 51.96 | |
| CFMS January Program | \$ 7.50 | |
| Julaine Mullaney Phone Bills | \$ 39.51 | |
| CFMS Dues and Insurance | \$892.50 | |
| Expressions Newsletter printing | <u>\$ 48.00</u> | |
| Total Disbursements | | \$1,136.23 |
| Ending Balance | | \$16,555.44 |