



# BRECCIA

Volume 56, Number 3

**March 2009**

**Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society**  
San Jose, California

Randy says...

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

As most of you know, the annual Show is approaching fast. There are many areas that need your help to make things go well. There was a sign up list at the meeting and it will be back next month.

**Help needed**

Please sign up to help in some area, whether it is Security or Ticket Sales or Hospitality or some other area. The duties are not difficult, but we need lots of people.

I have over 60 Dealers signed up to come. We also have Flint knapping, The Scholarship booth, Demonstrators and the Pebble Garden.

**We're setting up on Wednesday and Thursday, and tear down on Sunday after the show ends.** We need your help in all of these areas and others. Without you, it will be tough to do. Please call Frank Mullaney at (408) 266-1791 and tell him what you would like to do.

It was a pleasure to meet our scholarship recipients at the meeting. They will be helping with the Kid's area at the show. We usually give out two scholarships each year to Earth Science majors at San Jose State. This year we are awarding four at several schools. The money for these scholarships is raised at the Scholarship Booth.

The show is our major fund raiser for the club treasury. **Without the show income, we would need to raise membership dues significantly.**

The money raised at the show pays for bus trips, social svents such as the Founder's Day Picnic and Installation Dinner, Cabana Club rental expenses for meetings, insurance, and many other things. I look forward to working side by side with each of you to make this show successful.

**I will be reading a proposed By-Law change at the next meeting.** It will be voted on at the April meeting. The change is printed here and in the minutes:

**Member cost analysis:** Marc reported that the 2008 cost per member was \$93.32. MSP (D.Welder, R. Kennedy) to recommend changing the bylaws to remove dollar amounts for initiation fees and dues.

Randy Harris, President



**Welcome, New Member**

**Robert Phelps**

408 926 2091

1759 Ridgetree Way

San Jose, CA 95131

Sanjoserobert@sbcglobal.net

Robert is interested in cutting, polishing, collecting, smithies, fossils, faceting, geology, minerals, and field trips.



## March calender

Meeting **Program:** Show prep by Bill Gissler and Chuck Boblenz + why host this big federation show?

## March program preview

*Get the skinny on our show here!*

By Bill Gissler

What's this show all about?

- Review the planned events and activities
- Learn about special events, time and place
- Why a joint show with the CFMS ? Ruth Bailey will explain our relationship to the CFMS and the AFMS. Tell your friends!



## You're On! Member Displays

This is a favorite part of our general meetings. Your scheduled date is a suggestion; you can do it any time you wish. This list is alphabetical by last name. **Show your stuff!**

### March: G-H

**April: I-J-K**

**May: L-M**

**June or July** (we have a Silent Auction at one of these meetings): **N-O-P**

**August: Q-R-S-T**

**September: U-V-W**

**October: X-Y-Z + anybody**

**November:** None due to the Silent Auction.

**December:** None due to the Installation Dinner.



## Club calender

**Show meeting:** March 17 at 7:30 at the home of Ruth Bailey. All members are welcome.

**Demo Days** when study groups show all

Demo days are normally 10-3pm

Demonstrations 10-1pm; Show work 1-3pm

July 11, 2009; August 8, 2009; October 10, 2009

March 28, 9- 3pm **Spring North Bay Field Trip**

**(NBFT) Meeting** hosted by Peninsula Gem and Geol. Soc. at Shoup Park in Los Altos, CA.

**Annual Picnic** June 28 , 2009

**Installation Dinner** December 1, 2009

**Camp Paradise** May 17-23, 2009

**Zyzzyx Camp** November 2009



## Study groups

**Mineraleers** will meet Tues. (March 10) at 7:30 p.m at the Bill Gissler home to examine and discuss sand.

**Smithies** just finished a class and will have another in April. Let Kelly or Pat know if you are interested in joining the next class. Kelly (408) 262-8187; Pat (408)266-4327.

**Stringers** are repeating the knotting class March 23.. There is room for more students. Let me know if you want to learn how to knot between pearls. Pat (408)266-4327.

## Carvers and cutaways

Meet at John Eichhorn's house March 14th , 1- 4 pm .

Please give advanced notice if you plan to attend . 408-749-0523



## See a show!

### March 13, 14, 15 2009, Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

33rd Annual Tailgate; 10-5 Daily

Held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley

Tailgate Map (Google): N34.670650

W117.108983

(760) 243-2330; Website: [www.vvgms.org](http://www.vvgms.org)

### March 14-15 2009, San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

San Marino Masonic Center

3130 Hunting Drive, San Marino

Hours: Sat. 10 -6 , Sun 10-5

Drew Wilson (626) 298-1534

Email: [todrew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:todrew@sbcglobal.net)

### March 14-15 2009, Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds

900 N. Broadway, Turlock

Hours: Sat. 10 -6 , Sun 10-5

Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494

Email: [terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com)

Show Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

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**March 14-15 2009, Spreckels, CA**

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club  
Veteran's Memorial Hall  
5th & Liano Streets; 10-5 daily  
Teri Beck (831) 679-2896  
Email: [taítani@cencentric.net](mailto:taítani@cencentric.net)  
Website: [salinasrockandgem.com](http://salinasrockandgem.com)

**March 21-22 2009, Escondido, CA**

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Army National Guard Armory  
304 Park Ave; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4  
Van Lynch (760) 749-4164  
Email: [michelleandvan@hotmail.com](mailto:michelleandvan@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

**March 21 - 22 2009, Vallejo, CA**

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
Vallejo Elks Lodge  
2850 Redwood Parkway (Intersection of Parkway  
and Admiral Callahan Road); 10 - 5 both days  
Phyllis Malicki (707) 745-3255

**March 28 - 29 2009, Torrance, CA**

South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society  
Torrance Recreational Center  
3341 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4  
Roger Mills (310) 377-6226  
Email: [rogermills@acm.org](mailto:rogermills@acm.org)  
Website: <http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap/>

**MARCH 28-29: Angels Camp, CA**

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras *Frog Town USA* Fairgrounds  
Highway 49 in Angels Camp  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579  
Website: [Calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://Calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**MARCH 28-29: Roseville, CA**

Roseville Rock Rollers  
Placer County Fairgrounds  
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Gloria Marie (530) 367-2262  
Email: [Gloria.Marie@Conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Gloria.Marie@Conservation.ca.gov)  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

**April 3-5 2009, Bakersfield, CA**

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society  
Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South P. Street - Corner S. P & Belle Terrace  
Hours: 9-5 Daily  
Lew Helfrich (661) 323-2663 / cell (661) 378-4450

Email: [lewsrocks@bak.rr.com](mailto:lewsrocks@bak.rr.com)

**April 3-5 2009, Vista, CA**

San Diego Co. Council of G&M Societies  
The Tractor Museum  
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave. & Museum Way  
Hours: Fri. Noon-5; Sat. & Sun. 9-5  
Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 7570  
Email: [raysrocks@cox.net](mailto:raysrocks@cox.net)

**April 4-5: Mariposa, CA**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
Highway 49 Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4  
Diane Vereschagin  
Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net)  
[www.thematrixmariposagemmineralclub.info/  
events.html](http://www.thematrixmariposagemmineralclub.info/events.html)

**April 11-12 2009, Paradise, CA**

Paradise Gem & Mineral club  
Paradise Elks Lodge  
6309 Clark Road  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Carol Eggleston (530) 343-0894; Cell (530)  
321-6941; Email: [cjeggy@chico.com](mailto:cjeggy@chico.com)  
Website: [www.goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC](http://www.goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC)

**April 17, 18, 19, 2009, San Jose, CA**

54th Annual CFMS Show  
Santa Clara Valley G&M Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Road; 10-5 Daily  
**Detailed Show Page: [Click Here](#)**  
Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**April 18 - 19 2009, Lancaster, CA**

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral club  
Lancaster High School  
44701-32nd St. West; 9-5 daily  
Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309  
Email: [vivea22@yahoo.com](mailto:vivea22@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.geocities.com.av.gem](http://www.geocities.com.av.gem)

**April 25 - 26 2009, Santa Cruz, CA**

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium  
Corner of Center St. & Church  
10-5 daily; Dean Welder (408) 353-2675  
Email: [wdeanwelder@yahoo.com](mailto:wdeanwelder@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.scmgs.org/newsite/shows/  
index.html](http://www.scmgs.org/newsite/shows/index.html) ★

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### For sale: Faceting Machine

With accessories and lessons from master faceter Herbert Drake \$2500. Contact Hubert at (408)688-8086.

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## February Program Review

By Bill Gissler

In conjunction with our annual scholarship awards, we viewed a program about the role of the geologists in our daily life.

It is the geologist who leads in forecasting and preparing for natural disasters, identifies safe places and methods for construction, and who performs the initial investigative work for natural resources and water protection.



### 2009 Scholarship Booth Highlights

1. Two wheels of fortune with lots of great prizes, many of which club members help make throughout the year
2. Memorywire and bead bracelet kits
3. Heart pendant necklaces
4. Fossil painting with choice of 4 fossil casts
5. Mineral and rock specimens for sale
6. - Obsidian (from DRC)
7. - Fossil wood (from DRC)
8. - Fluorite crystals (from John Eichhorn)
9. - Stone mushrooms (from Michael Paone)
10. - Tumbled stones (from DRC) and collector's bags
11. - Thunder eggs (DRC)
12. Prize-ball machine full of minerals and other goodies
13. Rock identification kits

Volunteers are encouraged join in the fun as we support our youth in discovering the world of rocks, gems and minerals!

We are still accepting donations - contact Michael Paone, Chris Cherry or Nancy Reineking with your contributions.

**Remember, your donation makes a difference; 100% of every dollar we make goes directly to our scholarship fund!**



### Claims:

#### What Rockhounds Need to Know

By Dick Pankey, CFMS Field Trips North Chair

A **Claims Seminar** presented by **Dr. Gregg Wilkerson** (Bakersfield BLM District Office), will be hosted by the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society from 9am till 3 pm **Saturday, March 21** at the Community Presbyterian Church **200 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, California 94565**. Cost of seminar is \$5 which includes coffee, lunch of hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips and a beverage.

An announcement flyer with details and directions is available on the CFMS web site ([www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)). The seminar is for field trip leaders, all rockhounds and anyone using our public lands. All CFMS society members and guests are welcome!

The seminar will cover:

General overview and history. What it means when a piece of land is claimed.

Current status of claim procedures. What is claimable?

Rights and obligations of a Claim Holder

Rights and obligations of the public in respect to a claim

Use of claims to have and maintain access to rockhounding areas.

How to stake and file a claim.

Where and how to get information about claims and claimed land.

An excellent article on claims and the Mining Law of 1872 is in the **August 2008 Rock & Gem magazine** This is **MUST** reading for anyone who rockhounds on public land and "required" reading for anyone planning to attend the seminar. Written by Steve Voynick and entitled "**Minerals, Mining, & Public Lands,**" page 64. This outstanding article covers the history, purpose, updates and changes over the years and current status of the Mining Law. Great information.

Please reserve your place by notifying Dick Pankey at [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com) or 925-439-7509 **no later than March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Call or send me your reservation, **TODAY!!**



## 840 lb Emerald Lands in Court

Just before Christmas, detectives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department pried open a crate outside a warehouse to find something they had been chasing for months: an 840-pound Brazilian emerald that had been reported stolen. Now, if they could just figure out who owns it. So far, at least five people have come forward to say it's theirs.

Unable to determine who the real owner is, Lt. Grubb decided to keep the emerald locked up while the investigation proceeds.



### Where's my emerald?

A distraught Larry Biegler had called the sheriff's office to say that his giant emerald had been stolen from a Los Angeles area warehouse where he had been keeping it. It was worth nearly \$400 million, he said. The emerald, they determined, was in the possession of two businessmen named Todd Armstrong and Kit Morrison, whom detectives tracked to a small town called Eagle, in western Idaho.

When the detectives arrived, Mr. Armstrong was in the process of trying to sell the emerald to a buyer. "We've run into a small snag," Mr. Armstrong says he told his buyer.

### It's ours!

The Idaho men said the emerald belonged to them. They had paid Mr. Biegler \$1 million for diamonds he never delivered. Mr. Biegler had put the emerald up as collateral, they say, for the stones. When the diamonds didn't materialize, they picked up the emerald from the warehouse in Los Angeles.

Mr. Biegler, a gem broker and real-estate investor, disputes that. He says he kept up his end of the diamond deal, and claims the Idaho men agreed to pay \$80 million for the emerald, which he was willing to sell at that price.

The Idaho men agreed to turn over the emerald to the sheriff's deputies until the matter could be resolved. The emerald was placed in a secured warehouse in Las Vegas for safekeeping. When Lt. Grubb finally laid eyes on the emerald, he said, "It almost didn't look real".

### Arm-sized emeralds

Those who have seen the emerald describe it as a black boulder with protruding arm-sized green crystal cylinders. Gem experts say unbroken crystals of that size are rare. An appraisal done in Brazil valued it at \$372 million, according to documents filed with the Los Angeles court.

However, George Harlow, curator of minerals and gems for the American Museum of Natural History in New York, says that the most impressive mineral specimens might bring a price of up to six or seven figures. "But nine figures? I'm unaware of any mineral specimen that's ever gone for that much money."

The emerald was first dug up from a mine in 2001 in Bahia, in eastern Brazil. The emerald's first owners were a Brazilian gem trader, who owned the rights to the mine, and his business partner. **In 2005, they shipped the emerald to a business associate in San Jose, Calif., named Ken Conetto**, according to claims made in court documents filed by Mr. Conetto. Mr. Conetto says he kept the emerald stored in San Jose while attempting to find a buyer. He did not pay for the emerald, but he agreed to share some of the profits with the Brazilians, he says.

From San Jose, Mr. Conetto sent the gem to New Orleans, where he thought he had a buyer lined up. When Hurricane Katrina hit, it flooded the warehouse where the emerald was being kept, Mr. Conetto says. The emerald was submerged for weeks, and the sale was never concluded. The emerald returned to San Jose. *Continued on next page.*

Mr. Conetto enlisted Mr. Biegler to help him sell the emerald. They thought they could find potential buyers in Los Angeles. So last June, they loaded the rock into a van and drove it down themselves, Mr. Conetto said. Halfway through the trip, the van broke down, leaving the two men and their emerald stranded somewhere on Interstate 5. They rolled into a motel. Mr. Conetto said they paid the motel's owner and her boyfriend to help load the emerald into another van. Eventually, it made it to Los Angeles County, where it sat in a warehouse.

But things began to sour between Mr. Biegler and Mr. Conetto, according to both men. Mr. Biegler says he took possession of the stone after Mr. Conetto pledged it as collateral on a loan he failed to pay. Mr. Conetto says he never borrowed the money and that the emerald is still his.

It's not uncommon for gems to be used as financing tools for business deals, passed back and

## Disorderly Opal

Dr. Bill Cordua, U. W. D River Falls

**Minerals are crystalline solids**, having regular long-range arrangements of their atoms repeating predictably in three dimensions. But there are a few substances, called “mineraloids”, which have mineral-like occurrences, properties and consistency of composition but not a long-range crystalline structure. One of these is opal, a hydrated form of silica with variable amounts of included water. It is often described as amorphous (literally “without form”). Recent studies, have clarified opal’s atomic nature, subdividing it into categories such as “opal-CTÓ that read like an alphabet soup. Recent articles, such as one on the origin of thunder eggs from Colorado (Kile, 2002), use these terms, so it is worth-while finding out what they mean.

**Opal’s lack of long-range atomic structure** is verified by its response to x-rays. When x-rays pass through a mineral, they are affected by that mineral’s internal atomic structure. When the x-rays emerge, they make a pattern that is recorded on film or graph paper and reveals the mineral’s internal symmetry. In opal, the pattern that emerges is diffuse and not very regular. But “not very regular” is not the same as “random”. Some opals do show a short-range arrangement of their atoms. This allows the subdivision of opals into categories based on the type and extent of this order/disorder. The pattern in opal apparently consists of small spheres or chains of linked Si and O atoms. These structures are surrounded by more silica in a gel-like matrix. The arrangement of the spheres is similar to that of some high temperature forms of SiO<sub>2</sub> namely cristobalite and tridymite. The type of material found in the opal is the key to the alphabet soup.

**Opal A** is opal that is truly amorphous, having little if any arrangement of atoms. Much gem opal is of this variety. Opal AG is the least structured, being all amorphous gel (= AG. Get it?). Opal AN has a vague network structure in the gel. A lot of hyalite opal, thought to form as vapor condensate, is of this type.

Opal CT has intermixed tridymite and cristobalite structure along with unstructured gel. It gives broad x-ray  
*Continued on next page.*

forth on paper among brokers while never leaving a vault. That can lead to multiple parties using a jumble of documents to claim rights to the same gem.

Meanwhile, new claims continue to emerge. Anthony Thomas a gem trader from outside San Jose, says he is the rightful owner of the emerald because he purchased it for \$60,000 from the Brazilians in 2001. Mr. Thomas has also filed a claim.

On March 3 the court began hearing the competing claims of ownership. The emerald, however, remains locked up in the sheriff’s custody.

Reference: Wall Street Journal 2/28/09 Tamara Audi  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123578111660297983.html> ★

patterns, so at least is “aspiring” to true crystallinity. Lots of common opal and some gem opal is of this variety. Within this is Opal CTm (massive structure), opal CTp (platy structure) and opal CTI (fibrous structure). In case you are wondering where the “I” came from,(or what the “I” is going on) this fibrous structured opal has been termed “lussatite”.

Opal C has a pattern dominated by a diffuse structure resembling cristobalite. Agate at the base of Uruguay amethyst geodes has some of this, so many of you have specimens of this.

**Over time opal becomes less disorderly.** Its structure is not one that will last, as the atoms are more stable when arranged in a real crystal structure. Burial with moderate temperatures and pressures speed the breakdown process. Eventually opal passes from Opal A to Opal CT to fine-grained quartz or chalcedony. Much chert was probably common opal at one time or another. This nomenclature allows mineralogists who study opal to focus their attention of various types. Each type of opal has its own conditions of formation, and its orderly to disorderly pattern is often a window to those geological conditions.

Graetsch, H., 1994, “Structural characteristics of opaline silica and microcrystalline silica materials” in *Silica: Physical Behavior, Geochemistry and Materials Applications*, edited by P. Heaney, et. al., *Reviews in mineralogy*, vol. 29, Mineralogical Society of America, p. 209-232.

Kyle, Dan, 2002, Occurrence and genesis of Thunder eggs containing plume and most agate from the Del Norte area, Saguache County, Colorado, *Rocks and Minerals*, vol. 77, #, p. 252- 268.

### **Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes February 24, 2009**

President Randy Harris 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 published in the Breccia. The Board meeting will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Marc Mullaney's home.

**Announcements:** Randy Harris announced that we still have several positions available on the list of committee chairs and on the board. He is looking for a 2010 Show chairman and a Historian. See Randy if you are interested. Randy reminded everyone that the Castro Valley show is March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Also Randy announced that club directories were available after the meeting. See June Harris to get one.

**New Members:** Paul and Barbara Herrera were given their new member packets and welcomed into the society.

**Correspondence:** Fliers for the NBFT Seminar on March 21, the NBFT spring meeting on March 28, Snyder's Pow Wow, Mother Lode Mineral Society's upcoming show, and the Roseville show. A thank you letter from the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for Ruth Bailey contribution in memory of Woody Smith. An envelope of show raffle tickets and a check.

**Scholarship Recipients:** Randy Harris introduced our four scholarship recipients for 2009. They are Veda Urias and Chris Bonnette from San Jose State, Alicia Muirhead from UCSC, and Anthony Earls from CSU- East Bay. They each spoke briefly about what they were studying and what field they hoped to go into upon graduation. Each of the scholarship recipients were given a packet of information regarding their role in our upcoming show.

**Sunshine:** A moment of silence was observed for Sylvia Palmieri. Randy Harris announced that Nancy Reineking has been in the hospital, Gary McChristian is not doing well and has had to back out of the show, and Gordon Synder has had leg surgery.

#### **Study Groups:**

**Jewelers** will be meeting on the first Thursday from 7-10 at Marc Mullaney's home. They will be working on Byzantine chains.

*Continued on next page.*

**Cutaways and Carvers** will be meeting on the second Saturday at John Eichhorn's home. Call him for more information.

**Stringers** are taking more signups for learning to knot between pearls. Contact Pat Speece to sign up.

**Smithies** are currently working on the two night project. Contact Kelly VanVleck if you are interested in learning to work with silver.

**Faceters** meet on the first Saturday of the month at Max Casey's home.

**Mineraleers** will be meeting at Bill Gissler's home on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be sand. Call Bill to rsvp.

**Fossileers** met at the last Demo Day and looked through Gail's latest purchases from Quartzsite. They will meet at the next Demo Day and discuss the evolution of birds.

**Donation Receiving Committee:** No Report

**Hospitality:** There were 41 members and 13 guests. The guests were introduced.

**Federation Report:** Ruth Bailey requested that members sign up for banquet tickets for the CFMS Convention, and she also reminded everyone that several members had had articles submitted into the CFMS article competition and those people should consider attending the Editor's Breakfast. Ruth discussed the need for non-competition cases and competition cases. She also explained the supplemental Trophy contest that members can enter under various categories. Also Ruth announced that the forms for Zzyzx and Camp Paradise are online at the CFMS website.

**PLAC:** Frank Monez encouraged members to use the internet to expand their knowledge of what is happening in the CFMS, AFMS, other clubs, and the US Government's attempts to close rockhounding areas.

**Field Trips:** Dean Welder urged members to attend the upcoming NBFT Seminar and spring meeting. A field trip has been planned to collect whale bone on March 8<sup>th</sup>, contact Dean Welder to reserve your spot.

**2009 Show Report:** Marc Mullaney reported that publicity is going well. He is working with KUFX radio, the Marriott Hotel, Capitol Toyota, and Oakridge Theaters to advertise for the show. There are business card, postcards, and posters available for members to distribute to their neighborhood businesses. Julaine Mullaney will be back next week and she will continue to place signs on car windows. Chris Cherry has a sign up board for members to choose where and when they would like to help with the show. Everyone is requested to give their time generously.

**Member Display:** John Eichhorn brought some of his polished rocks to share, John Bahr brought some of his latest purchases of new and different material from Tucson. Frank Monez brought some information on Topaz Mtn, told a story about his collecting trips there, and encouraged members to participate in an upcoming field trip to Topaz Mtn. Dean and Karen Welder talked about their trip to Tucson and showed a piece of copper sulfate and told a story of how they found it and what their industry uses it for.

**Program for the evening:** Bill Gissler and Chuck Boblenz presented a video on the Professions in Geology.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 9:15 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,** June Harris, SCVGMS Secretary

**Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Board meeting minutes  
February 26, 2009**

President Randy Harris called the February 26, 2009 meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the home of Marc Mullaney. The meeting agenda was distributed. All board members were present except Frank Mullaney, Gail Matthews, and Michael Paone. Minutes from the January board meeting were approved as read.

**Correspondence:** None

**New members:** MSP (B. Spence, M. Mullaney) to accept Robert Phelps as a new member.

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**Treasurer's Report** was distributed. MSP (R. Bailey, V. Cangemi) to pay the bills.

**Committee Reports:**

**Show 2009:** Marc Mullaney reported that the publicity committee is hard at work. They have completed negotiations with KUFX radio station for radio advertising and give-aways. He is working with Capital Toyota to have additional advertising through their ads in exchange for booth at our show. Mercury News will not sponsor our event. Marc is still working with the Marriot Hotel for an exchange of a free room for coupons in our show paper program. Marc will help Pat develop a contract for Steve Yvaska's appearance at our show. Car window signs will be available next week, see Julaine Mullaney for installation. Emails to CFMS Club will be sent in the next week requesting help with demonstrating, display cases, competition cases, lodging, and advance registration. A weekly email will be sent to all past show attendees for the 6 weeks prior to the show.

**Old Business:**

**1. Investment advisor:** Marc will bring more information to the March board meeting.

**2. Wheel covers for storage trailers:** Report in March.

**3. Member cost analysis:** Marc reported that the 2008 cost per member was \$93.32. MSP (D. Welder, R. Kennedy) to recommend changing the bylaws to remove dollar amounts for initiation fee and dues.

**4. Large glass cases repairs:** John Eichhorn reported at the show meeting that "one top light bar has had the sides replaced with pine boards and varnished. It will be returned to the trailer, and the

other top taken to my house for repairs. The threaded holes in the glass frames will be repaired at the show setup." June Harris was asked to email John to find out if there are two sets of risers for the cases.

**5. Loaned cases to YSI:** Report in March.

**6. Volcano Case:** Looking for donations to purchase materials for the case.

**7. Auditing Committee:** MSP: (R. Bailey, R. Kennedy) to instruct the treasurer to remove fully depreciated assets that are not in service from the depreciation schedule. MSP(M. Mullaney, V. Cangemi) To accept the audit report.

**8. Club Brochure:** The board instructed Pat Speece to email the board members a copy of the proposed club brochure for board input. She was also instructed that the document should be in keeping with our Fairground Redevelopment committee's recommendations. When board consensus is reached, Pat was instructed to make 1000 copies for the show and club meetings.

**9. 2010 show date:** report in March.

**10. Field trip plan for NBFT:** Dean Welder reported that John Eichhorn is working on trying to get a field trip to visit the mineral collection at the UCSC earth science department. June Harris said that she would contact University of Pacific to see if a field trip to see the collection would be possible.

**11. Website update:** Randy Harris reported that the website has been updated with current information about our show. The FRC letter needs to be uploaded to the site.

**New Business:**

In memory of Sylvia Palmieri the board MSP: to send a \$25.00 check to the CFMS scholarship fund. It was suggested that the addition of a book to the club library would be nice, board members were asked to bring suggestions to the next board meeting.

**Sunshine:** Pat Speece reported that George Yamashita's mother passed away. Ernestine has been contacted.

**Motion to adjourn** by R. Bailey at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted, June Harris, SCVGMS secretary.



## Field Trips for 2009

From the North Bay Field Trips website

**Important: If any member is interested, you must first contact our own Field Trip Coordinator Dean Welder [fieldtrips@scvgms.org](mailto:fieldtrips@scvgms.org), phone (408) 353-2675 for specific details and introductions.**

**April tba** 3 day weekend at Black Butte Res. Mother Lode Mineral Club, Al Troglin

**April 4** Calistoga, CA – tour petrified forest. Fossils for Fun, Debbie Bunn

**April 4-12** Topaz Mt. and Dugway – for topaz, red beryl and geodes. pending Club, Jim Hutchings

**April 17-19** CFMS Show in San Jose – Santa Clara G & M Club

**May 23-25** Monte Cristo Mts., NV for rhyolite, agate, apache tears and petrified wood. Memorial weekend Nevada Co. G & M Club, Vicki Black

**May 23-25** Davis Creek, Lassen Creek & Adin CA for obsidian and dolomite. Memorial weekend Sutter Buttes G & M Club, Gerry Hill

**May 20-25** Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for obsidian AFMS Inter-Regional, Dick Pankey Memorial weekend

**June 6** Virgin Valley for Opals, opalized petrified wood. El Dorado Co. M & G Club, Fred Ott

**June 13/27** rain date Babcock Peak for rose quartz & tour of Taylorsville Museum Paradise G & M Club, Mike Eggleston (Alternate date, June 27)

**July 4, 5** Buffalo Canyon (Middlegate, NM) for fossils. Fossils for Fun, Hugh Brady

**Sept. 5, 6, 7** To Be Announced. Fossils for Fun, Keith Lindholm Labor Day Weekend

**Sept. 19 or 26** Hanksville, UT for petrified wood, fossils and agate. Fossils for Fun, Keith Lindholm

**October 3** Empire Mine Tour. Sun City Lincoln Hills Gem and Mineral Club, Ron Clawson

**Nov. TG week** Southern CA – annual Thanksgiving week trips. Mother Lode Mineral Club, Al Troglin



### Helpful Hints: Desert Fridge

Thanks to the second law of thermodynamics, Mohammed Bah Abba has developed a refrigerator that doesn't need electricity, and it costs very little. The elegant design consists of an earthenware pot nestled inside a larger pot.

Damp sand is packed between the two pots. When the Pot-within-Pot system is

stored in a very dry, well-ventilated place, the water held in the clay walls of the two pots and sand evaporates, carrying heat with it. The inner pot therefore cools down. Abba received one of five biennial *Rolex Awards for Enterprise* for his clever design.

Reference: Scientific American 11/2000



## Who to call for what

### Board

President: Randy Harris (831) 438-5150

Vice-president: Rick Kennedy (408) 529-9690

Secretary: June Harris (831) 438-5150

Treasurer: Frank Mullaney (408) 266-1791

Editor: Pat Speece (408) 266-4327 or  
[pat.speece@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat.speece@sbcglobal.net)

Federation Director: Ruth Bailey (408) 248-6195

Alternate Federation Director:

Michael Paone (408) 340-3258

### Directors (5)

Vito Cangemi (408) 356-6705

Gail Matthews (650) 962-9960

Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584

Bill Spence (408) 398-7502

Karen Welder (408) 353-2675

**Parliamentarian:** Dean Welder (408) 353-2675

### Historian

### Links:

Our website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

We are members of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS). <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://amfed.org>

**Membership requirements:** Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. Dues are \$10.00 per year. General meetings are normally held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (The Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032 ---just south of Blossom Hill between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

**Society purpose:** The purpose of the society is to foster an interest and appreciation for rocks and minerals by furthering knowledge of the earth sciences in our members and our community.

**Breccia crew:** Editor: Pat Speece; Proofreader: Daymond Speece; Paper Edition Mailer: Ruth Bailey

###

## Groups and Services

**Carvers, and Cutaways** John Eichhorn (408)  
749-0523 form spheres and sculptures, and make cabs

**Donation Receiving Committee (DRC)** George and  
Jane Yamashita (408) 353-2982

**Field Trips** Dean Welder (408)353-2675 or  
[fieldtrips@scvgms.org](mailto:fieldtrips@scvgms.org)

**Facet Cutters:** Max Casey (408) 227-0526

**Fossileers** Gail Matthews (650) 962-9960

**Librarian** Jennifer House

**Stringers** Pat Speece (408) 266-4327 Group makes  
jewelry with beads, jumprings...

**Smithies** Kelly Van Vleck and Pat Speece. Group  
makes jewelry using torch, saw .... Kelly (408)  
262-8187, Pat (408) 266-4327

**Mineraleers** Chuck Boblenz (408) 734-2473 Group  
studies and handles specimens.

**Jewelers** Marc Mullaney 408-691-1584

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