



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 72 Number 6, June 2024

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Events

June 25: The General Membership Meeting will feature **Phil Kesten on Tungsten**. The Bragging Rights theme is “**Starts with the Letter O**”.

July 2: Board Meeting on Zoom.

July 23: The General Membership Meeting will feature an ice cream social.

July 30: Board Meeting on Zoom.

Founders Day Picnic

Sunday, August 11, 2024 11:30am – 3:00pm

September 10

Special Meeting at 6 PM

Gabriela Farfang, a former SCVGMS scholarship recipient, now Curator of the Smithsonian Gem and Mineral Collection, will present to the club at a Zoom meeting Tuesday, Sept 10 at 6 PM PDT. We will record the session and make it available to everyone at the regular September meeting on the 24th.

Editor's Message

The Silent Auction was great fun for all who attended. We had 3 full tables, and the club made almost \$1,000.

Our own "Dr. Phil" (**Phil Kesten**) will be talking about **Tungsten** at the next meeting on June 25, and Jim Herbold will bring specimens.

Jim Herbold will introduce our new **Member Swap Meet** at the next General Meeting. Swap Meets will be held before some General Meetings, outside the Cabana Club, on the picnic tables. Members will be able to sign up to bring items to sell, and the first 5 will be included in the first Swap Meet. If people enjoy it, and more than 5 sign up, the next 5 will be included in the next Swap Meet.

Membership Dues are now due. See [the article](#) for information on how you can now pay online.

Do you have anything that other members might enjoy?

Deb Runyan, Breccia Editor
editor@scvgms.org, 408-628-7789

Rockhound of the Month

Our rockhound of the month is **Anne Ruiz**. She has volunteered to be the Fair Volunteer Coordinator, and she brought many donations for the Silent Auction.



Sunshine



Jim Sugiyama's wife, Nancy, passed away after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. So sorry for your loss.

She was a lovely person, and is greatly missed. - Pat Speece

If you know of anyone needing some sunshine in their lives, please email **Margo Mosher** at margomosher@yahoo.com.

Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

June 11 – 23: A “Co-Op Member” Field Trip to Central Oregon

June 11: Optional trip to Plush, OR, for sunstones

June 12: Opal mine fee dig near La Pine, OR, for honey-colored opal

June 13 – 16: See the Pow Wow info below.

June 17: Visit The John Day Fossil Beds (museum only, no collecting) well east of Prineville, the Biggs Jasper (which is a fee dig at \$5 per pound) and Fossil (right behind the high school)

June 18 – 19: To Be Determined.

June 20 – 23: Madras, OR show fieldtrips.

Contact: Kevin Kirschman, kkirschman@prodigy.net

June 13 – 16, Thu – Sun: Prineville, OR, 10-hour drive.

Pow Wow Field Trips.

A 4-day Rock Show and 3 Field Trips, Fri (6/14), Sat (6/15), Sun (6/16). Locations to be announced.

June 29, Sat: San Simeon Creek Campground, CA, 3.5-hour drive.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Moonstone and jaspers (optional: biconoids)

Led by Tyrone LaFay. Normal road travel, no special vehicle requirements.

Sign up at: <http://www.whoscoming.com/vgms/>

August 3 – 9, Sat – Fri: Delta, UT, 11.5-hours drive through Reno; 13-hours through Las Vegas

Dugway Geodes, Topaz Mountain, Drum Mountain agate, Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings

2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely, NV, on the way home.

September 26 – 29, Thu – Sun: Topaz Mt. and Dugway Geode Beds, Northwest of Delta, UT, 12.5-hour drive through Reno or 13-hour drive through Las Vegas

Topaz Crystals, Bixbite (Red Beryl), Pseudobrookite crystals, Hematite crystals, and Geodes.

Contacts: Gene Doyle, CO-OP & Roseville Rock Rollers Field Trip Leader, text or leave message, Cell (408) 605-9457, eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net;

Jim Barton, CFMS-N, Cell (916) 847-7321, geologist1@surewest.net.

Proposed for a time in the future: Ocean View Mine, San Diego Area, 7- to 8-hour drive

Tourmaline and Quartz

June 2024 Breccia Prez Message

Hello SCVGMS Members and Friends!

This month I'd like to provide a trip report on a recent hike that I made that was interesting on a number of levels. I, and two friends, hiked the Lost Coast Trail in Humboldt County, CA. We traversed 25 miles of coastline, hiking for 3 days and camping for 2 nights. Lost Coast is a very remote area north of Ft. Bragg and south of Eureka. There are no highways near this section of coast because of the steep terrain. The hike itself is rated difficult because you are hiking with a heavy pack on sand. It felt like 50 miles and I was constantly seeking wet sand that is more firm than the dry stuff, but that, of, course brought me closer to the waves and required a lot of attentiveness.



This about sums it up...

I mentioned the sand, and that was about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the hike. The other terrain consisted of gravel and rocks of all sizes, and also trails up off of the beach that jump over tight spots. There are "pinch points" which one must pass at low tide and that are otherwise impassable at high tide. We saw steep landslides and lots of exposed rock.

The sand is usually sloped down to the ocean's edge to some degree, even to 25 or 30 degrees at times, and sneaker waves must be avoided. I did get my boots and feet drenched by a wave toward the end of the hike. There are many stream crossings, but that also means that there's plenty of water to filter and drink which keeps the pack weight down. For the first two days of hiking we had a dense marine layer. It kept the heat down, but also led to some serious tent condensation overnight.

The trail portions of the hike had ticks and stretches of unavoidable poison oak. I'm glad I brought an outer layer to catch the evil oils of the poison oak. Another unique part of the environment is that it is a perfect habitat for black bears. We saw several stretches of bear tracks on the sand but we did not meet any of them in person!

*These bear prints are the same size as my outstretched hand.
They were fresh on wet sand from a receding tide.*



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The local geology consists of uplifted Cretaceous marine deposits (65-144 mya). The area is the meeting point of the North America, Pacific, and Gordo plates, and is the western-most point of the continental US. Inland from the ocean is the 3,600 foot gain of the King Range. The mountains looked impressively steep, an indication of the strength and recency of the uplift of the North American plate. The exposed rocks near the beach were turbidites (uplifted and formerly underwater landslides), shale, and greywacke. The turbidites exhibit interesting strata, but the shale and greywacke were boring. As a result the rocks on the beach were incredibly uniform and grey in color. How could 25 miles of California beach have no agates or jaspers or fossils? We saw lots of washed up sea urchins that the birds like to eat, and I did see probably 5-7 pieces of ocean-tumbled abalone shell.



The first image is a conglomerate of ancient water-tumbled cobbles with a large pitted calcite vein—it was the only specimen I saw on the entire hike.



The second image is a 20-foot tall section of turbidite—layers deposited by ancient underwater landslides.

So this was a training hike for bigger things later this summer. I recommend the hike but be prepared for a lot of exertion and sore feet/ankles. To note: you need to win a permit lottery in the early spring to be able to do this hike—the number of hikers starting the trek each day is limited to 60 per day. We saw fewer than 15 people on the entire walk, and one was a ranger checking for permits and bear canisters, which are required. One last note—I am now a huge advocate for hiking poles. I had never used them before and I will never hike without them again. They really help with both propulsion and saving your knees on downhill stretches.



The first image includes a whale bone, I believe.



The second image is a commonly-seen sea urchin with purple spines.

Shifting gears from my beach hike, I don't have any substantial administrative updates to write about this month. The Silent Auction at the May general meeting was a great success and I want to thank everyone for bringing specimens to donate and for those who bid on the specimens—we hope that you enjoy your new acquisitions!

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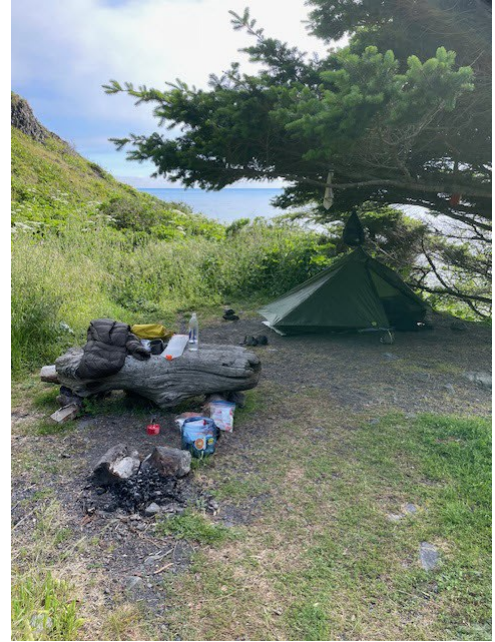
The board continues to meet monthly and we are still working on issues like confirmation of our non-profit status, By-Laws optimization, and responsibly managing club assets.

I can mention that you should mark your calendars on August 11 to reserve the middle part of the day for our annual Founders Picnic at the cabana club. Food and bingo will be enjoyed!

My ultralight camping setup. Sleeping under the tree reduced the accumulation of moisture on the tent during the night. I slept for nearly 11 hours without waking up once at this campsite—I was very tired after 20 miles of trudging over sloped sand!

That's it for this June edition of the President's Message. Have fun!

Jim Herbold
SCVGMS President



Membership Dues for 2024 Are Due

SCVGMS membership dues are due for the year 2024. Your dues are essential to the operation of SCVGMS.

Dues are \$5.00 for Junior, \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for the household.

You can now easily pay online, at <https://www.scvgms.org/product/membership-dues/>.

Or

Pay Frank at a meeting.

Or

Send your check to Treasurer, Santa Clara Gem and Mineral Society, Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054, or to Frank Mullaney, 5705 Begonia Drive, San Jose, CA 95124.

Thank you.

Bragging Rights

May's Bragging Rights Theme was "Purple".

1: *Charoite from the Char River in Siberia, Russia—
Jim Fox*



2: *Morado opal from Mexico—
Bruce Poehlman*



3: *Grape agate from Indonesia—Sonia Dyer*



Winner: **Jim Fox's** Charoite

Please see Jim Fox's article about [Charoite](#), on Page 18, for more photos.

This month's Bragging Rights theme is "Starts with the Letter O".

Please email Bruce Poehlman (bwpoehlman@gmail.com) a photo of your "O" treasure by 4:00PM on Monday, **July 22**, to have it included in the contest.

Cesar Nuñez-Bragging Rights Chairman

Member Displays



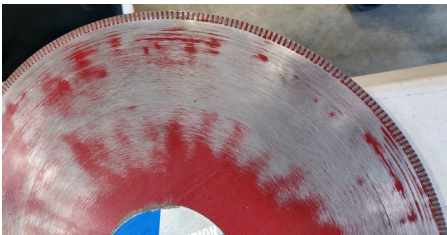
Stephen May brought Clear Creek finds: Pale Green and Pale Yellow bladed rosettes (Unknown)



Kyle Van Woerkom: Jasper, quartz and dolomite from Quick Silver Mine



Michael Paone: Silver work on Cabs done in Bali



David Mosher: What NOT to do to an expensive saw blade

Please email photos of the items that you will display to [Michele Smith](mailto:Michele.Smith@scvgms.org) by the Sunday before the general meeting, so that people who attend the meeting on Zoom rather than in person can view your items. **Also, please email them to editor@scvgms.org** so they can be correctly identified in the Breccia! **Please bring your items with you to the Cabana Club, if you are attending the meeting.**

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, or anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who are attending. Show off what you love, so that we can enjoy it with you.

AGATES—June

06-23-2020

Presented by: Missy Fox

(Continued from the May 2024 issue of the *Breccia*.)

Tube agate

The formation of the tubes is caused by a single filament in the center of a stalactite like tube around which multiple layers of agate surround the tube. When a tube is cut cross ways one can usually see the central filament surrounded by concentric circles.



Tube Agate



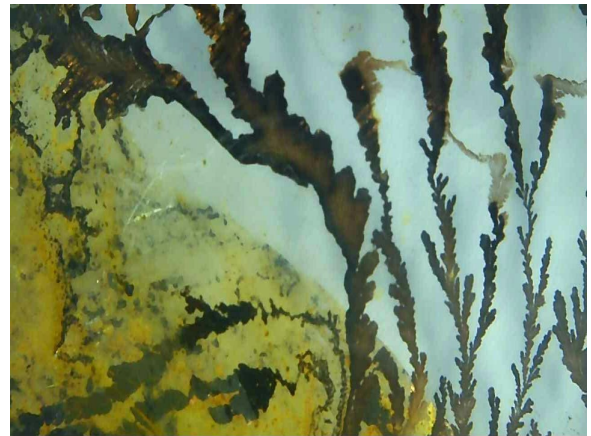
Tube Agate (Magnified)

Dendritic Agate

Dendrites differ from plumes in that the dendrites are more branch-like and they are two dimensional. The dendrites occur between bands of chalcedony or in healed fractures. The dendrites are usually black or brown and are composed of iron or manganese oxides. The name dendrites comes from the Greek word “Dendron” or tree.



Brazilian Dendritic Agate



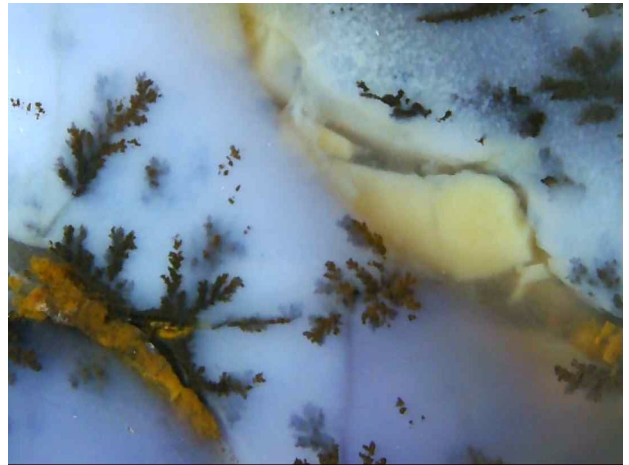
Brazilian Dendritic Agate Magnified)

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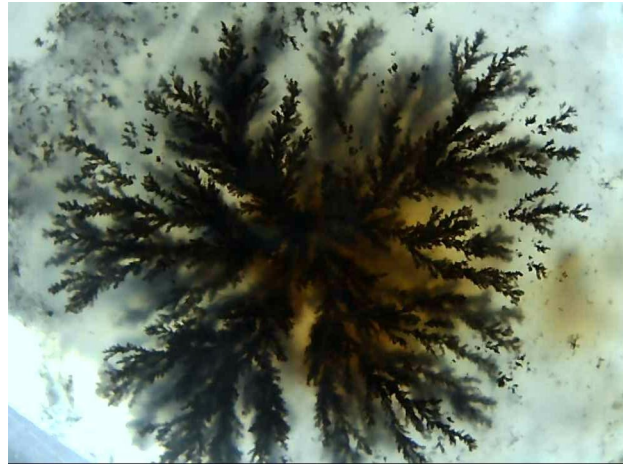
Amethyst Sage Agate



Amethyst Sage Agate (Magnified)



Dendritic Agate Cab



Dendritic Agate Cab (Magnified)

(Continued on page 11)

Punishment

Hwy 17 Los Gatos area Santa Cruz Mtns

Last week-end as I took a Sunday drive on Hwy 17 above Los Gatos, I noticed in the higher elevations near the highway, that the mountains ... They're not just funny... They are hill areas.

-Nelson Andrade

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Kazakhstan Dendritic Agate Cab



Kazakhstan Dendritic Agate Cab (Magnified)



Dendritic Agate Cab



Dendritic Agate Cab (Magnified)

(To be continued)

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

Click on any links below for sites you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <https://www.scvgms.org/>

Note: After you click on the above link, if you want to see the Breccia and other news items, scroll down and click on "Download", shown under the Newsletter option.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS): <https://www.amfed.org>

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

BLM's Website For Rockhounding: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS): <https://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Mindat.org (world's largest open database of minerals, rocks, meteorites): <https://www.mindat.org/>

SCVGMS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

More Punishment

As a rock salesman, I've had great success with money.
Sometimes I take it for granite.

I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, chicken. One day I hope to be a bouillianaire.

I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinzsight.

I was walking in the jungle and saw a lizard on his hind legs telling jokes. I turned to a local tribal leader and said, "That lizard is really funny!" He replied, "That's not a lizard. He's a stand-up chameleon."

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.

Singing in the shower is fine until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

The Black-Eyed Peas can sing us a song but the chick peas can only hummus one.

Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King, but he made a great ruler.

My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right...Jack and the beans talk.

Information on Shows

June 15 - Bellflower, CA

Delvers Gem and Mineral Society
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
14515 Blaine Ave.

Hours: 10–4

Rock & Lapidary Extravaganza. Parking lot sale – Tons of Fun.

June 29 - 30 - Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave.

Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5

2024 Fiesta of Gems

Contact: Janice Metz

culvercityrocks35@gmail.com

Web: <https://culvercityrocks.org>

August 3 - 4, 2024 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

62nd Roseville Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show

700 Event Center Drive

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Web: <https://www.rockrollers.com/show.html>

August 17 - 18, 2024 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" St.

Hours: 9–5 PM Daily

Contact: [\(661\) 972-1117](tel:(661)972-1117),

travis462@outlook.com

Web: <https://tvngms.rocks>

August 24 - 25, 2024 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

64th Annual Tournament of Gems

Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd.

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: [\(626\) 260-7239](tel:(626)260-7239),

marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com

Web: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 21 - 22, 2024 – Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road

Hours: 10–5 Daily

Contact: susieharlow@gmail.com

Web: <http://cvngms.rocks>

September 28 - 29, 2024 – San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

Gems By The Sea

Veteran's Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave.

Hours: 10–5 Daily

Web: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/>



Fluorite (Mohs 4), Part 2

By Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D.

Before we leave the topic of the color of fluorite, we need to address a question about which you might be wondering. “Fluorite” sounds a lot like, and looks a lot like, the word “fluorescence.” Is there a connection?

Oh my, yes!

Certain specimens of fluorite are known to radiate purplish light when exposed to ultraviolet light. So if you shine ultraviolet light on a fluorite crystal, it can radiate back purplish light. (See Fig. 3.) The British scientist Sir George Stokes studied this phenomenon in the middle of the nineteenth century; he coined the term “fluorescence” because fluorite was one of the first fluorescent minerals he examined. It is believed that fluorescence in fluorite is due to impurities of the exotically-named element yttrium; specimens of fluorite that fluoresce due to yttrium impurities are known as “yttrofluorite.” In any case, the name of the phenomenon is named for the mineral, and not the other way around!



Fig. 3. A specimen of fluorite fluoresces, that is, it radiates a purplish light when exposed to ultraviolet radiation

Fig. 3. https://i.etsystatic.com/9539797/r/il/524674/3916161074/il_794xN.3916161074_1rqg.jpg

How about the habit—the shape—of fluorite crystals? The way that calcium and fluorine atoms bond together—by sharing electrons between the atoms—enables them to connect in a regular, cubic structure. Two layers of fluorine atoms sandwiched between layers of calcium atoms form a cube (see Fig. 4.), and many such cubes interconnect to form a fluorite crystal. The cubic symmetry translates up from the simple structure to the larger, more complex one... but the cubic crystal habit is maintained. Or, to be more precise, the isometric crystal habit is maintained. Octagonal crystals of fluorite are not cubic, but they are isometric.

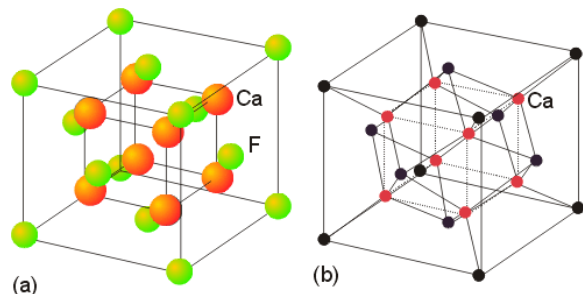


Fig. 4. Two layers of fluorine atoms are sandwiched between three layers of calcium atoms to form the cubic structure at the heart of a calcium fluoride (fluorite) crystal.

Fig. 4. From <https://faculty.uml.edu/ndeluca/84.334/topics/fig0213c.gif>

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If you have been paying attention to rocks, minerals, and crystals for a while now, it is possible that you first encountered fluorite as one of the identifiers on the Mohs hardness scale. The hardness scale is, by the way (from hardness 1 to hardness 10) is talc, gypsum, calcite, fluorite, apatite, orthoclase feldspar, quartz, topaz, carborundum, diamond. So, yes, there is fluorite at number 4 on the scale. (A piece of fluorite will make a scratch on a specimen of calcite (hardness 3) and will be scratched when a piece of apatite (hardness 5) is drawn against it. And for you lovers of mnemonics, the hardness scale can be remembered by “The Girls Can Flirt And Other Queer Things Can Do.”)

(As an aside, there is nothing special about the Mohs hardness scale, and nothing special about the specific minerals on it. The scale was devised by the German chemist and mineralogist Carl Friedrich Christian Mohs in the early part of the nineteenth century, as a way to help him identify minerals. Mohs had observed that some minerals are harder than others, and that when one was drawn against the other, a harder mineral was able to scratch a softer one. After studying many minerals, he selected ten to serve as marker posts on a ten-point hardness scale; fluorite ended up at number four.)

It is worth noting that in addition to making a fine addition to any mineral collection, fluorite has some important industrial applications. Pure fluorite is clear and transparent, but in addition, colors of light across the visible spectrum are transmitted through a slice of pure fluorite at close to the same angle at which they entered the fluorite, regardless of the color of the light. This is not true for most other materials. For example, when light passes from air into glass and back out into air, the red colors come out at an angle of about twenty degrees from the initial direction, while blue light comes out at about forty-five degrees from the initial direction. This results in a phenomenon known as “chromatic aberration,” in which a narrow beam of white light—light that has all of the colors of the rainbow mixed together—ends up spread out in a “rainbow” pattern. And a relatively wide rainbow pattern: the colors end up spread over about twenty-five degrees. That is how a prism works; the sketch in Fig. 5a. shows the spectrum of colors created when white light passes through a prism made of glass.

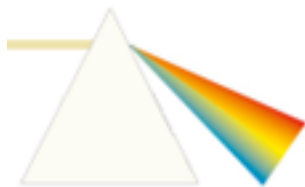


Fig. 5a. Light disperses as it passes through a glass prism. White light comes in, but the different colors of light get spread out as they pass into, then out off the glass.

Fig. 5a. made by prk



Fig. 5b. Light disperses as it passes through a prism made of fluorite. Notice that, compared to light passing through a glass prism, light of different colors is much less spread out.

Fig. 5b. made by prk

Because of the optical properties of fluorite, a prism made of fluorite spreads out the different colors of visible light over a much smaller angle, compared to the spreading of light by a prism made of glass. The sketch in Fig 5b. shows a beam of white light passing through a prism made of fluorite; compare

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this sketch to that shown in Fig. 5a.. the different colors of light are spread out over a smaller angle. (Scientists would say that there is less dispersion when light passes through the fluorite prism.) This special property of fluorite makes it valuable for creating the lenses used in precision microscopes and telescopes, through which you would not want different colors to blur. Compare, for example, the image in Fig. 6a., in which there is color blurring—that is, in which there is chromatic aberration—with the image in Fig. 6b., in which there is not. Note that the fuzziness of the colors along many of the lines in the photo in Fig. 6a (for example, along the staff held by the figure atop the building) is gone in Fig. 6b.



Fig. 6a. Different colors of light bend at different angles when they pass through a glass lens, resulting in chromatic aberration.

Fig. 6b. Chromatic aberration is all but eliminated when using a lens made out of material with low dispersion.

Figs. 6. from <http://www.photoshopsupport.com/photoshop-blog/11/04/ib-blog/chromatic-aberration-compare-1.jpg>

Fluorite is also a useful material from which to make lenses because it does not absorb colors outside the range that humans can see. We see colors from approximately red to approximately violet. (For you lovers of mnemonics, the colors of light visible to humans can be remembered by the odd name “Roy G. Biv,” that is, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Roy. G. Biv is the name of a famous, and fictitious (!), scientist.) There are, however, colors of light other than those visible to humans floating around the universe. Out beyond violet, for example, are colors in the “ultraviolet” range. Honeybees can see these colors, which helps them locate flowers; if you want to study honeybees, you need your experimental equipment to be sensitive to colors beyond violet. And warm objects radiate energy in the color range below red, that is, in the color range termed “infrared.” If you want to study, say, space heaters, your equipment needs to be able to register infrared light. And if you will study honeybees or space heaters, you should not use glass to cover the openings in your equipment that let light in—plain glass absorbs light of colors in both of these ranges. But you can use windows made from thin pieces of fluorite—both infrared and ultraviolet light pass through fluorite.

Fluorite, then, is a pretty handy mineral. But while you might not need to use a fluorite lens, having a number of fluorite specimens, of different colors and crystal shapes, in your display case... that is a must!

Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D., Department of Physics, Santa Clara University

Smiles

My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect. And for that I am eternally grapefruit.

Federation Report

Camp Paradise still has openings.

The CFMS/AFMS Combined Show and Convention on May 26th

Jo Borucki was inducted into the Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame!

The Jewelry Trophy, sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, was not awarded.

The Ruth Bailey award for the best displayed case in the Federation Show, sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, was awarded to:

Valerie Churchill from the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society for her case "The Olde Rock Candy Shoppe". Valerie just turned 9 the week before the show. This case was in competition and received judged scores of 98 & 95.

To the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society:

My name is Valerie Churchill and I am from Ventura. I'm a member of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society. One of my cases in the 2024 CFMS - AFMS Show last weekend won the Ruth Bailey trophy for Best in Show awarded by your club.

I would like to say thank you for the trophy. It is so pretty and it's the biggest trophy I've ever gotten. I was really surprised to win it. Thank you!

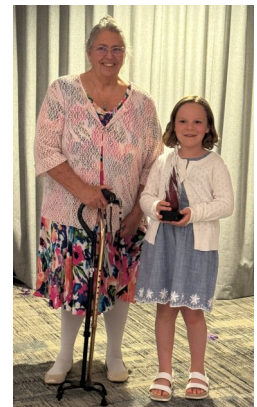
My case that won is called "The Olde Rock Candy Shoppe." It is full of rocks that look like candy. Since it is a project case I wrote a description of what my case is about that I would like to share:

"I am a third-grader, and I created this case last year. I made it because I was feeling hungry and rocks started to look delicious. I was craving candy that day. I thought, why not make a case that makes rocks look like candy, and candy look like rocks? So I got to work and started looking for the perfect specimens. The problem is now I can't eat the candy or the rocks. I'm still hungry."

I sent three photos: one of my case, one of me with the trophy and my case, and one of me receiving the award at the Awards Banquet from CFMS President Marcia Goetz.

Thank you again, this was really special for me.

-Valerie Churchill, age 9, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society



Charoite Puzzle

By Jim Fox

Charoite is a relatively rare rock which has a **complex** composition of **hydrated potassium, sodium, calcium, barium, strontium**, hydroxy **fluorite** and **silicate**. It was first described in 1978 and is named for the **Chara** River in **Siberia**, Russia which is the only place in the world where it is found. Charoite is **lavender** to purple in color with a **pearly** luster. It is strictly massive in nature, and fractures are **conchoidal**. It has an unusual **swirling, fibrous** appearance, that is sometimes **chatoyant**. The fibrous appearance along with its intense color, can lead many to believe that it is synthetic or artificially **enhanced**. Though reportedly discovered in the 1940's, it was not known to the general collecting world until its description in 1978. It is said to be **opaque** and **unattractive** when found in the field; a fact that may have contributed to its late recognition. The black in this charoite piece is **aegirine** crystals, the yellow is **canasite** and the yellow-brown prismatic crystals are **tinaksite**.

The bolded words are in the word list for the puzzle on the next page.



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Still More Punishment

What did one granite rock say to the other?

"I love your "gneiss" new outfit!"

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

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Puzzle

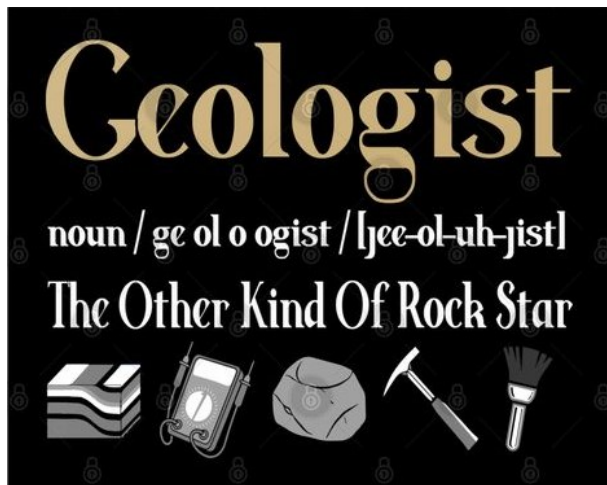
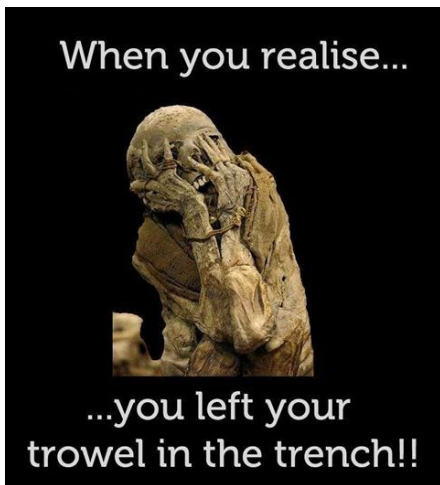
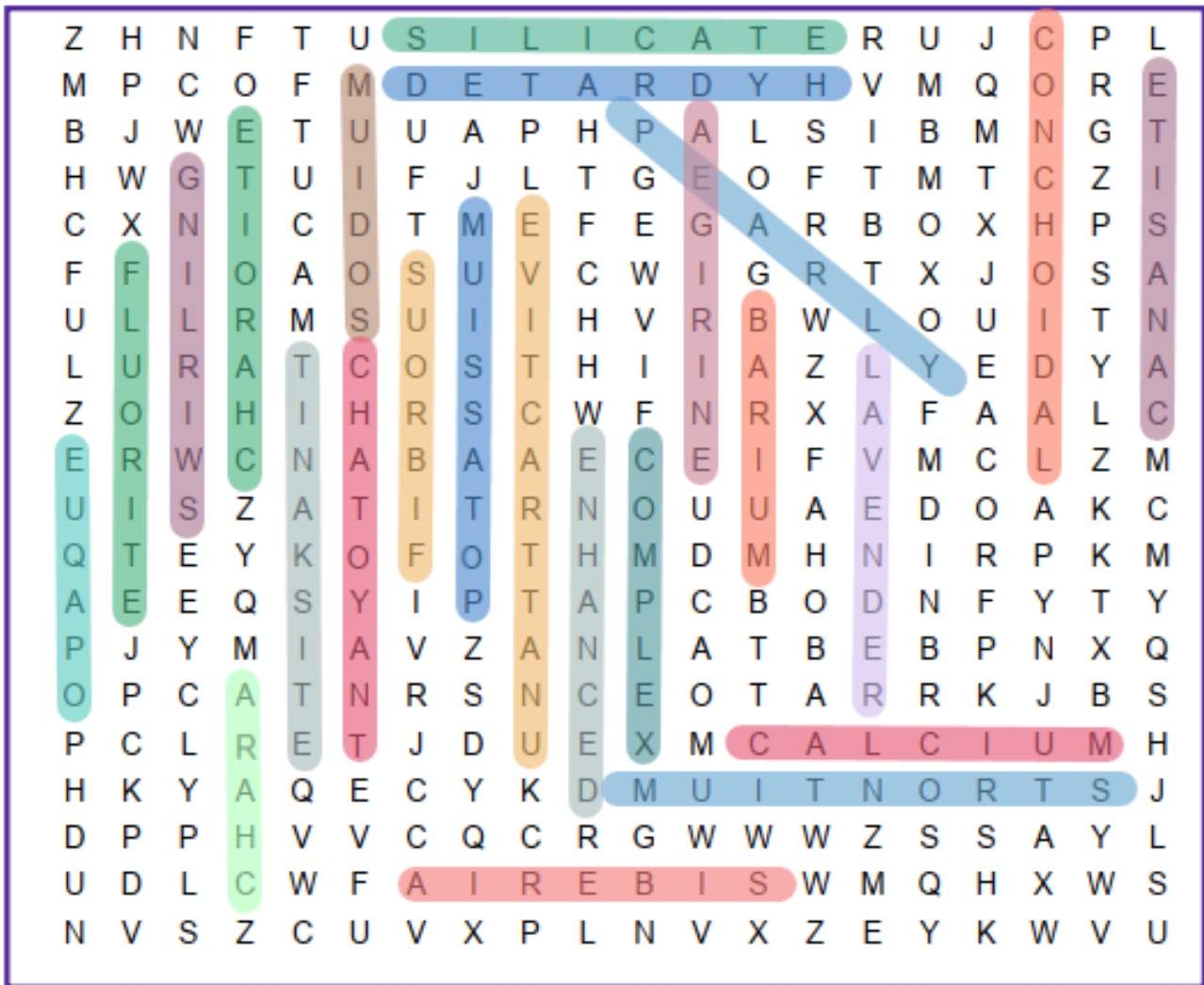
Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Word List

AEGIRINE	CHATOYANT	HYDRATED	SILICATE
BARIUM	COMPLEX	LAVENDER	SODIUM
CALCIUM	CONCHOIDAL	OPAQUE	STRONTIUM
CANASITE	ENHANCED	PEARLY	SWIRLING
CHARA	FIBROUS	POTASSIUM	TINAKSITE
CHAROITE	FLUORITE	SIBERIA	UNATTRACTIVE

Z	H	N	F	T	U	S	I	L	I	C	A	T	E	R	U	J	C	P	L
M	P	C	O	F	M	D	E	T	A	R	D	Y	H	V	M	Q	O	R	E
B	J	W	E	T	U	U	A	P	H	P	A	L	S	I	B	M	N	G	T
H	W	G	T	U	I	F	J	L	T	G	E	O	F	T	M	T	C	Z	I
C	X	N	I	C	D	T	M	E	F	E	G	A	R	B	O	X	H	P	S
F	F	I	O	A	O	S	U	V	C	W	I	G	R	T	X	J	O	S	A
U	L	L	R	M	S	U	I	I	H	V	R	B	W	L	O	U	I	T	N
L	U	R	A	T	C	O	S	T	H	I	I	A	Z	L	Y	E	D	Y	A
Z	O	I	H	I	H	R	S	C	W	F	N	R	X	A	F	A	A	L	C
E	R	W	C	N	A	B	A	A	E	C	E	I	F	V	M	C	L	Z	M
U	I	S	Z	A	T	I	T	R	N	O	U	U	A	E	D	O	A	K	C
Q	T	E	Y	K	O	F	O	T	H	M	D	M	H	N	I	R	P	K	M
A	E	E	Q	S	Y	I	P	T	A	P	C	B	O	D	N	F	Y	T	Y
P	J	Y	M	I	A	V	Z	A	N	L	A	T	B	E	B	P	N	X	Q
O	P	C	A	T	N	R	S	N	C	E	O	T	A	R	R	K	J	B	S
P	C	L	R	E	T	J	D	U	E	X	M	C	A	L	C	I	U	M	H
H	K	Y	A	Q	E	C	Y	K	D	M	U	I	T	N	O	R	T	S	J
D	P	P	H	V	V	C	Q	C	R	G	W	W	W	Z	S	S	A	Y	L
U	D	L	C	W	F	A	I	R	E	B	I	S	W	M	Q	H	X	W	S
N	V	S	Z	C	U	V	X	P	L	N	V	X	Z	E	Y	K	W	V	U

Charoite Puzzle Answers



May 26, 2024 - SCVGMS General Meeting

Call to Order - 7 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Program for the evening: Silent Auction

New Members (Cynthia Porter): Steven Nguyen

Member Displays

Stephen May Clear Creek finds: Pale Green and Pale Yellow bladed rosettes (Unknown)

Kyle Van Woerkom: Jasper, quartz and dolomite from Quick Silver Mine

Michael Paone: Silver work on Cabs done in Bali

Volunteer Roles that need to be filled

Thanks to **Cesar** for bringing snacks this time.

Secure volunteer who is responsible for snacks for the June 25, 2024 general meeting

Sonia Dyer for June meeting

County Fair volunteering

Volunteer coordinator: Jul 25-28, Aug 1-4, **Anne Ruiz**

4 Cases available for displays (Contact Stephen May)

Program for the evening: Silent Auction Bidding on Table 1

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney): pics from Ventura - Ruth Bailey Award - winning case

CFMS Newsletters and AFMS Newsletters

Dues are due now and can be paid online

Field Trips (Stephen May)

Sat May 4 Clear Creek - update

June 3 (Monday): Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, 3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per spot. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 13 – 16, Prineville Or. Pow Wow Field Trips: A 4-day rock show and 3 Field Trips, Fri. (6/14), Sat. (6/15), Sun. (6/16). Locations to be announced. Drive time 8 hrs. 42 min.

August 3(Sat) – 9(Fri), Delta Ut: -Dugway Geodes-, -Topaz Mountain-, -Drum Mountain agate-, -Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings-. 2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely NV, on the way home.

Rockhound/Volunteer of the Month for March 2024

Paul Kidman - for all his help and effort with Audit Committee and By-Laws research

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Bragging Rights

For this month the theme is "Purple". Specimen review and voting.

Submission 1: Charoite from the Char River in Siberia Russia—Jim Fox

Submission 2: Morado opal from Mexico—Bruce Poehlman

Submission 3: Grape agate from Indonesia—Sonia Dyer

Winner: **Jim Fox's** Charoite

For June, **Cesar** is nominating the following topic: "Starts with the letter O". Send pictures to **Bruce Poehlman** at: bwpoehlman@gmail.com or (818) 912-1866

Snack Break and Program for the evening: Silent Auction Bidding on Table 2

Hospitality

36 Members and 7 Guests in attendance: Michael Hoffman, Karen Ruth, James, Satori, Jamie, Stephanie, Marizio

New Member: **Stephen Nguyen!**

Sunshine (Margo Mosher)

Jim Sugiyama's wife passed away last Wednesday

Federation Report (Karen Welder): Meeting took place on May 26th

Camp Paradise still has openings

Jo Borucki was inducted into the bulletin editors Hall of Fame!

Jewelry Trophy

Best Case In Show

Camp Paradise drawing (Missy Fox): 2 winners to be drawn!

Diane Maez

Alt 1: **John Bahr**, Alt 2: **Missy Fox**, Alt 3: **Nissa Nuñez**

Cezar Nuñez

Alt 1: **Anne Ruiz**, Alt 2: **John Sutter**, Alt 3: **Jim Fox**

Coming in June

General Meeting on June 25

Dr. Phil Kesten - Tungsten. **Jim Herbold** to bring specimens.

Program for the evening: Silent Auction Bidding on Table 3

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

SCVGMS Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes

June 4, 2024

Meeting called to order at: 7:37 pm

Roll call: Jim Herbold (President), Bruce Poehlman (Vice President), Cynthia Porter (Secretary), Frank Mullaney (Treasurer), Jim Fox (Board), Missy Fox (Board), Stephen May (Board), Michele Smith (Board), Deb Runyan (News Editor), Dean Welder (Parliamentarian), Karen Welder (Federation Director), Paul Kidman (Alternate Federation Director)

Absent: Michele Smith, Jim Fox and Missy Fox, Karen Welder

Reading of the Minutes from 4/30/2024 board meeting (Cynthia Porter):

Revisions to the Minutes: None. M/S/P Frank Mullaney/Jim Herbold

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney): None

New Members (Cynthia Porter): **Stephanie Lawton** (pending payment) M/S/P Frank Mullaney/Jim Herbold

Treasurer's Report (Frank Mullaney): Four members paid dues

Almost \$1000 on silent auction

Motion to make auto renewal for GoDaddy web certificate M/S/P Jim Herbold/ Bruce Poehlman

Federation (Karen Welder): None

Elected to give out 2 awards per year; motion to discontinue Ruth Bailey award for Best Case and Best Piece of Jewelry Award in CFMS show M/S/P Frank Mullaney/Jim Herbold

Field Trips (Stephen May): No changes

June 3: Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, Nevada

June 13–16: Prineville, Oregon Pow Wow with Field Trips

August 3–9: Delta, Utah

Old Business

Capital Planning Committee: added post-audit items to this group

Financial accounts: Jim set up Vanguard brokerage account. Setting up bank account link to transfer \$80K of Chase monies into Vanguard. Motion to transfer \$80K into Vanguard Federal Money Market Account. M/S/P Bruce Poehlman/Noel Runyan

By-Laws Review Committee: Paul will write and include public charity justification letter with our next tax return.

Public charity status letter to IRS - yes, Paul to front this, file with tax return

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Dodge & Cox liquidation: yes, proceed. Frank and Paul to meet D&C to iron out details of account liquidation.

By-Laws revision as Public Charity: yes, proceed. Paul to redraft and communicate with Capital Planning Committee.

Need new volunteer coordinator for Santa Clara County Fair. Anne Ruiz. Frank and Michele to coordinate with Anne.

New business

Nomination of Rockhound of the Month for May 2024. **Anne Ruiz!** For her Silent Auction donations and volunteering to be Fair Volunteer Coordinator.

Frank is asking about dues and initiation fees being paid online. Frank to check with webmaster.

Noel: tracking sale price of silent auction donations. Jim Fox can keep the auction papers for a month, people can ask Jim.

Bruce: will share calendar subscription instructions with the group

Jim to introduce Member Swap Meet at next General Meeting and bring sign-up sheet. 5 per meeting, held on picnic area tables

Upcoming Business

2025 scholarship/grant recipients. Raise in August.

Upcoming Programs

Program schedule for 2024 General Meetings

June 25 - Phil Kesten - Tungsten

July 23 - ice cream social

August 27 - Rick Kennedy - Jackson's Crossroads 2023 dig and AMNH visit report

September 24 - Gabriela Farfang - move up to Sept 10 special date

October 22 - Sonia Dyer - "Meteors, Meteorites, and Tektites"

November 26 - silent auction

December 3 Installation Dinner 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 pm (Motion to adjourn Frank Mullaney)

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jim Herbold, 650-743-3254
Vice President: Bruce Poehlman, 818-912-1866
Secretary: Cynthia Porter, 408-978-5848
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney, 408-691-2656
Editor: Deb Runyan, 408-628-7789
Federation Director: Karen Welder, 408-353-2675
Alternate Fed. Director: Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox, 408-356-7711
Missy Fox, 408-356-7711
Stephen May, 408-306-6782
Noel Runyan, 408-866-7564
Michele Smith, 408-374-1897
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder, 408-353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Cesar Nuñez
Donation Receiving Committee Chair: Michele Smith
Show Chairpersons 2024: TBD
Fairgrounds Booth Chair: Michele Smith
Fairgrounds Liaison: Frank Mullaney
Fairgrounds Volunteer Coordinator: Margo Mosher
Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Jim Herbold
Founder's Day Raffle: TBD
Founder's Day Bingo: TBD
Hospitality: TBD
Installation Dinner: Tamara Bell, and Michael Paone
Member Displays: TBD
Refreshments: TBD
Silent Auction: TBD
Sunshine: Margo Mosher
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Librarian: Deb Runyan

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](tel:408-265-1422)

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. **General meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:00 followed by the meeting at 7:30 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. **The Next General Meeting is on June 25 at 7:30 at the Cabana Club and also available on Zoom.** The Next Board Meeting is at 7:30 on **July 2** on Zoom.

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).

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published 11 times annually. The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after each general meeting. The Breccia editor is Deb Runyan who may be contacted by email at Deb4Rocks@gmail.com and by phone at 408-628-7789. The Breccia is proofread by Noel Runyan, Pat Speece, and Sonia Dyer.

Exchange bulletins may be emailed to Deb4Rocks@gmail.com. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.