



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 65
Number 7

San Jose, CA
July, 2018

President's Message

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

Today, as I am catching up on club work, on one of the hottest days of the year, I want to wish everyone a good summer, and if you are out field-tripping, make sure you stay safe and drink plenty of water. I will be looking forward to hearing about all your field trip adventures during our club meeting the fourth Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to show and tell us about the rocks and minerals that you have collected or bought. We all learn more when our members share their stories and show their items. For those who like to compete a bit, we have a bragging rights contest each time. The theme for July is simply "your favorite item". Bring it. We would enjoy seeing it, and who knows, you may win the Bragging Rights competition!

SCVGMS president,
Frank Mullaney

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| Rock Sale: | July 22 See page 2 for details. |
| General Meeting: | July 24 |

Calendar of Coming Events

July 6 - Smithies workshop 11 AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
July 10 - Cabbers 7 to 9:30 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
July 13 - Smithies workshop 11 AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
July 21 - Cabbers 10 AM to 2 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
July 22 - Rock Sale 9:00 AM to Noon in Billie Gordon's back yard
July 24 - Social at 7:15 PM and General Meeting at 7:45 PM with a DVD
July 26 - Board Meeting at Frank Mullaney's home, hosted by Cal Hansen at 7:30 PM
August 3 - Smithies workshop 11 AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
August 10 - Smithies workshop 11 AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
August 14 - Cabbers 7 PM to 9:30 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
August 18 - Cabbers 10 AM to 2 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
August 28 - Social at 7:15 PM and General Meeting at 7:45 PM. Show and Tell from Topaz Mountain Field Trip
August 30 - Board Meeting at Sonia Dyer's home at 7:30 PM
September 7 - Smithies workshop 11AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
September 11 - Cabbers 7 to 9:30 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
September 14 - Smithies workshop 11 AM to 2 PM at Pat Speece's home
September 15 - Cabbers 10 AM to 2 PM at Victor Gassmann's home
September 25 - Social at 7:15 PM and General Meeting at 7:45 PM with a talk by Chuck Boblenz on "Exotic Slabs for the Collector".
September 27 - Board Meeting at Frank Mullaney's home, hosted by Pat and Louis Schuesler at 7:30 PM

DRC

Rock Sale July 22, 2018

We are revving up for our next sale, Sunday, July 22, 2018, 9am until noon. Lots of new material will be offered, and lots of free rocks will be available. These outdoor sales are the easiest field trips. All rocks except the biggest are up on tables. Friendly people are there to help.

**Sales are now at the home of
Billie Gordon
15851 Izorah Way,
Los Gatos, 95032**

Since this is a corner house, please enter at the side gate on Placer Oaks.

Questions?

[Email pat.speece@comcast.net](mailto:pat.speece@comcast.net)

Camp Paradise

There are still openings for both weeks at Camp Paradise. It is an inexpensive and enjoyable workshop offering many jewelry making techniques. Click on the link to get the application form:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms10/paradise/2018CampParadiseRegistration.pdf>

79th CFMS Convention With the Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society Show

September 15 & 16, 2018
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair street
Chico, CA

Links to Show Calendar and CFMS Bulletin

To get a full listing of CFMS shows, go to the CFMS shows website by clicking the following link: [CFMS Society/Club Shows](#)

You can access the CFMS bulletin and read all its articles by clicking on this link:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Recommendation from One of Our Readers

My nine-year-old grandson, Gabriel, recently started bringing rocks inside after playing in my backyard. Who knew that the pile of rocks on my dining room table would turn into an educational experience that we both enjoy! That's when I stumbled across this great resource for anyone getting started with this fun outdoor activity: "The Beginner's Guide to Backyard Geology" at

<https://www.redfin.com/blog/geology-for-beginners>

2018 Field Trips

Davis Creek and Lassen Creek at Buck Mountain - July 26-29

Obsidian: Sheen, Electric Blue, Rainbow, Green, Gold, Mahogany-Gold, Gold, Silver, Pink. Lace, Double Flow and Needle. Hosted by Dick Pankey

Hawthorne and Mina, Nevada – Oct 6-7

Microcline Feldspar, Copper minerals, Black Quartz Crystals, Epidote, Epidote in Quartz, Epidote in Calcite, Cassiterite, Grandradite and Grossular Garnet. Fossils, and possible petrified wood. A four wheel drive vehicle is required.

Contacts: Gene Doyle, 408-605-9457, Email: eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net or James Hutchings 530-367-5108 at home or (916) or 995-7380 on the road.

E-mail: jhutchings22@hotmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator:

Stephen May: Cell: 408-306-6782; Home: 669-248-3993

What is Breccia?

What is breccia? I heard this question at a meeting that I attended, and Rick Kennedy answered the question beautifully, but I am afraid his answer went in one ear and zipped out the other, so I decided to look it up and document the answer for myself and for our newsletter. If one other person and I didn't know the answer, my guess is that there are many others who are unclear as to what breccia is, other than the name of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Club's newsletter.

It is an apt name for the publication because according to Wikipedia, it is “a rock composed of fragments of minerals or rock cemented together by a fine grained matrix that can be the same or different from the composition of the fragments.” Wikipedia goes on to say that breccia is an Italian word that means either loose gravel or stone made by cemented gravel.

Breccia in its many forms seems to have purpose for us humans in that it is ornamental. It has been used, both, as material for sculpture and for architecture as far back at least since 1800 BC when the Minoans used it in the palace of Knossos on the island of Crete. The ancient Egyptians used it in sculpture in such statuary as the figure of their goddess Tawaret. Because breccia is often very attractive, the Romans used it for two of the columns for the Pantheon. That breccia came from Turkey, and the Italians called it pavonazzetto, where pavone means peacock because it is so colorful as is the peacock's beautiful tail.

Like the material called “breccia” our “Breccia” is a compilation of many things: club news, pictures, rockhounding related articles, announcements, and documentations of the activities and interests of our club, designed to be both useful and ornamental. I am working to make this newsletter ever more useful and attractive.

I would like to ask for suggestions from you, the readers. For example, I have not been including the information about festivals and shows, and I no longer include articles from the CFMS newsletter, because both can be easily accessed by clicking on the links shown on page 4 of this issue. Is that working okay for you?

Please submit comments to joborucki@yahoo.com.

Jo Borucki, Breccia Editor

Sunshine

Contact Margo at the following email to provide information on those in need of Sunshine. Thank you.

Margo Mosher: margomosher@yahoo.com

CFMS Club Shows



To get a listing of shows, go to the CFMS shows website by clicking the following link:

[CFMS Society/Club Shows](#)

Show and Tell Members' Displays

All members are asked to display at least one time per year, but you may display as many times as you like. There are no displays in June and November because of the Silent Auctions. There are no displays in December because there is the installation dinner in lieu of our regular 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, anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who attend the meeting.

Rick Kennedy-Chairperson

Rockhound of the Month

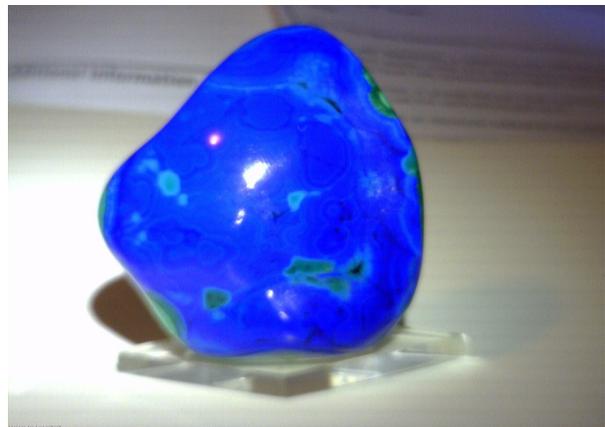
The June rockhound of the month is **Billie Gordon** for generously allowing use of her backyard for rock sales and for her hard work in organizing the sales. Thank you and congratulations, Billie.

Bragging Rights Alan Achor-Chairperson

There was no Bragging Rights competition in June because of the silent auction. The theme for July is "**My Favorite Piece**", you know, the piece that makes you smile every time you look at it. Jim Fox is in charge of the July Bragging Rights.

This polished azurite with malachite shown below is one of my favorite pieces. Over 25 years ago I was at the Campbell Rock Show at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. I was new to rock collecting, so I was looking for a few select favorite specimens for my collection. This azurite piece was exactly what I was looking for, but it was priced on the high side, but not unreasonably high. I decided to pay the extra price for this exceptional piece. It has been one of my treasured pieces and I smile every time I look at it. I'm hoping I can convince our members to share with the rest of us that special piece or pieces that make you smile every time you look at it/them.

Let's fill the Bragging Rights Table this July meeting with these wonderful memories of our beloved hobby. I will enjoy seeing these wonderful treasures from our fellow members. by Jim Fox



Smithies

Smithies make jewelry using all sorts of fine tools/toys including torches, drills, and files.

Our July project involves fold-forming - lots of hammering and torching. These are guided workshops, a perfect place for beginners to become comfortable with tools and techniques in a small, friendly atmosphere. No tests; no stress; no contracts.

Tools and materials are supplied, but you are free to bring your own. If you would like to be on the Smithie email list, or want more information, let me know via email.

Since we have room for five students, you must sign up to come.

We meet the first two Fridays of the month from 11:00am until 2:00pm. There is a small lab fee.

If you would like to get on the Smithie email list, please contact me.

Thanks, Pat Speece
pat.speece@comcast.net

Cabbers

With the two club Genies and my slab saw, I can show you how to safely use the equipment to make a cabochon. These are formed rounded and polished stones to incorporate into jewelry. There is a \$7 shop fee. Beginners are welcome.

WHEN: We meet on the **second Tuesday** and the **third Saturday** of the month. Tuesday hours are from 7:00 to 9:30 PM and Saturday hours are from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

WHERE: 2150 Almaden Road, San Jose. This is near Curtner and Almaden Road.

CONTACT: You must call to let me know if you are coming.

Victor Gassmann 1(408)376-1721

If you would like to be on my email notification list, email me.

gassmannv3@gmail.com



The Rocks by Steve Breazeale - Contributed by Pat Speece

Correction in June Breccia

The June issue of the Breccia Page 9 of the article, “Happiness, It Rocks” was incorrect in its description of how to determine the mineral’s density. It said to weigh the container of water. That was incorrect. It should be:

“We wanted to determine the density. We put my sample on his scale. It weighed 30.5 grams, but weight (mass) depends not only on the density of an object but also on its size. So, how big is it, in other words, what is its volume? To determine this, we put the frame and basket on the scale and zeroed the scales out so to cancel out the its weight. Then we put the rock into the basket and gently raised the container of water under the basket so that the rock is submerged, and checked the weight.. The sample in water weighed 23.1 grams. $30.5 \text{ grams} - 23.1 \text{ grams} = 7.4 \text{ grams}$. The sample displaced 7.4 cubic centimeters of water. This is its volume. $\text{Density} = \text{mass} \div \text{volume}$. $\text{Density} = 30.5 \div 7.4 = 4.12$. So what has a hardness of between 4 and 5, a density of 4.12, and is green in color. The best candidate is Smithsonite.



Weighing Frame & Basket



Getting the Mineral Volume

The June 28, 2018 General Meeting

Our general meeting, as usual, began with everyone signing in at the door, being greeted by Pat and Louis Schuesler. Michelle Smith offered a great and abundant variety of refreshments as she usually does, including wraps, drinks, and desserts. Once we had been greeted, filled our plates with good food, and greeted our friends and met new ones, it was time for our semiannual silent auction, and there was much to see. It was one of the best offerings we have had for minerals featuring several specimens of Rhodochrosite as well as many other minerals. In addition, Sonia had sorted through the books in the SVGMS library, offering many of them as auction items. An enjoyable time was had by all.



Louis and Pat Schuesler



Rhodochrosite on Auction



Examining Sale Items

Rockhounding on the Big Island of Hawaii

“Do I see a CFMS Field Trip to Hawaii in the Future?” These were the words that were emailed to me to inform me of the richness of Olivine being spewed, along with the lava, onto the island of Hawaii. All of the Hawaiian Islands were built through volcanic eruptions of lava piling higher and higher from the ocean floor until they were tall enough to be higher than the ocean waters. The older islands are gradually shrinking in size, but the island of Hawaii is still being formed, currently very actively through the lava flowing from the Kilauea Volcano.

I had not thought of the Hawaiian Islands as being a source of many minerals, but in looking at various websites, I find that it has quartz, epistilbite, manganese, nickel, cobalt, black coral, and gem quality olivine, known as peridot. Residents are finding lovely green crystals of peridot, sometimes in great abundance. Someone said that it was literally raining gemstones. And so, maybe it is time to consider organizing a field trip to Hawaii!



General meeting minutes

June 26th, 2018

The June meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 7:45 pm at the Cabana Club. The minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed in the Breccia.

Announcements: Welcome! From now on, there will be a meet and greet between 7:15 – 7:45 just before the general meetings. Dues are due! Please give them to Missy Fox or mail them to our PO Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054.

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy reported he will check the PO Box before the Board Meeting and report the correspondence then.

New Members: No new members.

Board Meeting: Will be at Jim and Missy Fox's home at 7:30.

Bragging Rights: Last month's winner was Anne Ruiz. Next month's theme is "My favorite piece".

Rockhound of the Month: Billie Gordon won the award for her volunteering to host the DRC sales.

Field Trips: The Topaz Mountain trip was a huge success and will be the program for our August meeting. Stephen May reported about a trip to Davis Creek for Obsidian in late July, and Dean Welder added about a Thanksgiving trip to Black Butte. As always, please refer to the Breccia for all of the details.

Member Displays: By Rick Kennedy. Due to the Silent Auction, there were no member displays this month.

Festival: Sonia Dyer has volunteered to be the Festival chair for 2019. She reported that there will be a kick off meeting in September.

Study Groups:

Cabbers: Meetings are usually the second Tuesday from 6:00 – 9:00PM and the third Saturday from 10:00AM – 2:00PM at Victor Gassmann's home. \$7.00 shop fee, please RSVP if you are planning on attending. Always check the Breccia for details. Victor announced that he is ready for someone to take over the group.

Smithies: The Smithies meet the first two Fridays of the month from 11:00AM – 2:00PM. Dates of meetings are in the Breccia. Email to confirm with Pat, or to be added to her email list.

Hospitality: 36 members and 5 guests were in attendance.

Founder's Day Picnic: Will be July 1st. Dining will start at noon, please bring a side dish or dessert if you are planning on attending.

ALAA: Nothing new.

Federation Report: the 2019 show will be in Pasadena in March.

DRC: Billie Gordon announced that there will be a sale at her house on July 22nd from 9:00am – 12:00.

Sunshine: Margo Mosher had nothing to report. Rick Kennedy reported that John Veevaert, longtime mineral dealer and Benitoite lover had tragically passed away on June 24th in an automobile accident.

Program: Silent Auction! There were many quality items and bidding was very active.

July Meeting: There will be a meet and greet with refreshments from 7:15 – 7:45 before our General Meeting.

July Program: Rick Kennedy will be showing a DVD from the Dallas Symposium on the Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine, subtitled "The Triumph of Faith Based Geology"!!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary

Board Meeting

June 28th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at the home of Jim and Missy Fox.

Roll Call: All board members were present except for Frank Mullaney and Alan Achor.

Reading of the minutes from the May 24th Board Meeting: M/S/P to approve the minutes as read. (J. Fox, R. Kennedy).

New Members: M/S/P to accept the application of Jann Paul Fabrin (R. Kennedy, M. Fox)

Correspondence: Dodge and Cox statement, IRS approval letter, Underground Gold Miner's post card, Coupons for August Gem Faire.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Missy Fox. All bills have previously been approved, so no need for a new motion to pay bills. M/S/P to allow David Mosher to spend approximately \$320 on parts for tumblers (C. Hansen, S. May)

Committee Reports:

Festival 2018: Sonia Dyer reported that the kick off meeting will be in September.

Field Trips: Stephen May reported that there has been nothing new since the General Meeting. As always, check the Breccia for details.

Founder's Day Picnic: Sonia reported that all is ready to go and that Stephen May and Missy Fox will be shadowing her at the picnic and will chair the event next year.

Old Business:

New Webmaster: Frank Mullaney, Jo Borucki, Sonia Dyer and Rick Kennedy need to review the first draft of the website, meet and get back to the developer with suggestions and edits.

Trailers: Frank Mullaney and Bob Kout will try to get the needed maintenance done in the next month or so.

Library: Stephen May has contacted the Santa Clara Library and they will take anything we choose to discard.

Laptop: Cal Hansen was given some guidance from the Board as to the functions needed for a club laptop and will try to complete the task before the next meeting.

Programs: Here is a list of the upcoming programs:

July – DVD: Dallas Symposium – Jackson's Crossroads

August – Stephen May – Panel discussion about the June field trip

September – Chuck Boblenz Lapis Lazuli

October – (Possible) Rick Kennedy – 2018 Hallelujah dig

New Business

Smithies: M/S/P to authorize Pat Speece to purchase five new vises, total cost up to \$100.00 (J. Fox, D. Welder).

September Board Meeting: Will be held at Frank Mullaney's home, hosted by the Schueslers.

July Board Meeting: Will be at Frank Mullaney's home, hosted by Cal Hansen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kennedy

SCVGMS Secretary

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

Like us on Facebook:

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

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Frank Mullaney
(408) 691-2656

Vice President: Sonia Dyer
(408) 629-5735

Secretary: Rick Kennedy (408) 529-9690

Treasurer: Missy Fox (408) 356-7711

Editor: Jo Borucki (408) 245-2881

Federation Director: Stephen May
(669) 248-3993

Alternate Fed. Director: Karen Welder
(408) 353-2675

Board Members

Jim Fox (408) 356-7711

Alan Achor (408) 749-0771

Louis Schuesler (408) 353-2329

Pat Schuesler (408) 353-2329

Cal Hansen (408) 394-4642

Historian:

Parliamentarian:

Dean Welder (408) 353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Alan Achor

Donation Receiving Committee Chair:

Pat Speece, Missy and Jim Fox

Festival Chairman 2019: Sonia Dyer

Field Trip Committee Coordinator:

Stephen May

Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Sonia

Dyer assisted by Cal Hansen, Stephen

May, and Mike Paone

Founder's Day Raffle:

Founder's Day Bingo:

Hospitality: Pat and Louis Schuesler

Installation Dinner: Rick Kennedy

Member Displays: Rick Kennedy

Refreshments: Michele Smith

Silent Auction: Michele Smith

Social:

Sunshine: Margo Mosher

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

Webmaster: RK Owen

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 with meet and greet time beginning at 7:15 followed by the meeting at 7:45 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 July 24.** The **Board Meeting** is on **July 26** at the home of **Frank Mullaney and hosted by Missy Fox**

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

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published ten times annually. **The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after the general meeting.** The Breccia editor is Jo Borucki who may be contacted by email at joborucki@yahoo.com or by phone at (408)245-2881. Leave a message if no one picks up the phone. The Breccia is proofread by Pat Speece. Exchange bulletins may be sent to Jo Borucki, 1196 Sesame Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. 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, please contact the leader listed below.

Smithies: Pat Speece 408- 266-4327 pat.speece@comcast.net

**Cabbers: Victor Gassmann 408-376-1721
gassmannv3@gmail.com**