

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

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



Please Deliver Promptly

BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley
Gem and Mineral Society



All American Club

Volume 53
Number 8

San Jose, CA
August 2006

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: John Eichhorn
(408) 749-0523
Vice President: Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584
Secretary: Randy Harris
(831) 438-5150
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791
Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150
Federation Director: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195
Alternate Fed. Director: Frank Monez
(408) 578-7067
Directors:
Bill Gissler (408) 241-0477
Larry Moore (650) 941-4966
Pat Speece (408) 266-4327
Lynn Toschi (408) 353-3323
Jane Yamashita (408) 353-2982
Historian: Anna Windsor
(408) 926-8624
Parliamentarian: OPEN

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

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

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

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

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number (408) 265-1422

An Invitation

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

Our next general meeting will be on August 22, 2006 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Our next board meeting will be on August 24, 2006 at Larry Moore's home, 15 Rock Point Lane, Los Altos, CA 94042 (650) 941-4966 at 7:30 PM.

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

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

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

Study Group Leaders

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

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

John's Note

I hope everyone enjoyed the Founder's Day Picnic. My compliments to the chefs and organizers of another excellent picnic/barbeque.

The Spider Mine field trip is coming up on Aug. 20th. This is usually a three day trip. Drive up on Saturday, field trip on Sunday, and drive back on Monday. The Spider Mine is the San Francisco club's rhodonite mine claim. It's hard rock mining. Anybody interested in going should try to caravan with other club members.

Along with a large donation of rocks from the Ginn family, there is also a metal detector, a bag of inexpensive findings, and three 2"x 6" x 7' of Honduras Mahogany. These will all be at the sale on August 19 at Pat Speece's home.

The Cutaways group could use donations of equipment that is in good shape, especially a saw that's at least 16 inches in diameter.

It's too hot to write about anything else. See you at the August BBQ/Potluck before the regular meeting.

Thank you,
John Eichhorn

**Important Notice:
Dues are overdue!!!
Please send your check
for \$10.00 per adult
member and \$3.00 per
junior member to:
SCVGMS Treasurer,
Frank Mullaney
5705 Begonia Drive
San Jose, CA 95124**

June's Jabberings

Have you ever thought about how much time it takes to make a rock club like ours run fairly smoothly? Do you realize that there are a few people who work diligently for your benefit? There are many jobs within our club take several hours a month to do and many others that take relatively little time to do. Presently we have just a few people doing most of the jobs and those of us who are doing them are in desperate need of help.

Marc Mullaney is currently looking for people to help with the 2007 show. Many of the jobs require no rock knowledge and only a few hours for a couple of months to do. Please step up and volunteer. The show is our main fundraiser and it helps keep our club dues low and activities high.

Another area where you can help is by taking an officer or committee position. This would be a great time to work into a position for next year. A nominating committee is selected in September and elections are in November. If you started with the August meeting you might be able to talk to some of the officers and committee members about their jobs and get first hand information about the positions they hold. Most take only a few hours a month and offer you an opportunity to become more familiar with your club and it's members.

Burn out is a terrible thing for clubs, please help your fellow members avoid it.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TWO
NEWEST "LIFETIME MEMBERS"
MARC MULLANEY AND PAT SPEECE
THANKS FOR YOUR UNDYING
SUPPORT OF THE CLUB.**

BBQ/Potluck at the August 22 regular meeting. The club will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and paper goods. You are asked to bring either a salad or dessert to share. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM Meeting begins at 7:45 PM and our program will be on Gold.

Check out what our study groups are doing!!!



CUTAWAYS

The Cutaways study group will not be meeting for the months of August and September. The Shoup Park lapidary shop is currently being remodeled. If you have any extra equipment that you would like to donate to this study group, please contact John Eichhorn, (408) 749-0523. More info to next month.

Silversmithing by Kelly Van Vleck



The Smithies are finishing their latest group of classes. Kelly and Pat have planned another intermediate class beginning in October. To place your name on the class list for the February class, call Pat Speece at (408) 266-4327.

News from the Donation Receiving Committee by George and Jane Yamashita

Our Founders Day Picnic had an additional activity this year. Club members were treated to rock sale. The rocks were from donations that had been collected by our new "Donation Receiving Committee" and some rocks that Frank Mullaney had accepted sometime during the past year. The club took in \$265.00, our members got some good bargains, and they enjoyed looking at the rocks.

The Donation Receiving Committee is just getting started. The board has adopted a policy that we will try for the next six months. All donation will go through the Donation Receiving Committee. The committee will be co-chaired by George Yamashita and Randy Harris. All calls about donations will be handled by the committee. We would love to have more volunteers to help pick up, sort, and sell the rocks.

All of our club members will have equal opportunity to purchase rocks that have been donated to our club. We want to move the rocks quickly so the prices will be very reasonable. Judging from our first rock sale, it will be fun and beneficial to all club members. We will also set aside rocks that will benefit different club activities and events, for instance; Lucky Dip, Door prizes at our Annual show, any of our Study Group activities, Scholarship booth, Founders Day Raffle and Bingo prizes, and anything else that benefits the club as a whole.

Pat Speece will store donations and has graciously offered to have rock sales when the need arises. Our next rock sale will be at Pat Speece's house on Aug. 19th from 9 AM to noon.

Stringers by Pat Speece



We'll learn how to make the Wave Bracelet at our July 26, 2006 get-together. This bracelet can have lots of variations as to size and shape of beads.

Our stringing semester is coming to an end in August. Suzi and I are in the midst of planning for next year. We'll have signups for next year at a later general meeting.

Are you interested in a Filigree jewelry making class? If so, call Pat Speece (408) 266-4327 for more information and to place your name on the interest list.

**Come one, Come all!
Study Group Demo Day
August 12 from 10AM -4PM
at the Cabana Club.
Call Marc Mullaney for
more info (408) 971-6651
or email him at
geologistm@aol.com**

The Junior Study Group is looking for helpers to assist in planning and holding Junior events. If you would like to assist Mark and Debbie Wartenberg with the Juniors group, please call (650) 568-6114 or email Mark at wartomas@ix.netcom.com .

Member Displays By Kelly Van Vleck

Pat Speece showed several beautiful beaded bracelets the Stringers have been making in their class at her house.

Smithies class students displayed the pieces they have made in the silver class this past month. Some of the pieces were very stunning.

Mark Wartenberg shared with us a number of boxes of Petrified Wood he had tumble polished. This was wood that was from the Saratoga donation. Beautiful polish on the stones. Mark very generously offered each person a stone to keep.

John Zerbinski was very proud of his bottle of pretty Ethiopian opal of all colors.

Claire Ferguson shared her pieces of agate from the Saratoga donation. The agates displayed were very nice.

Bill Gissler made available quite a treasure of books he has collected which pertained to the program, Sedimentary and Vein Agate, which he conducted for the meeting.

Members who are scheduled to share in August are Dennis and Patricia Phelps, James Robertson, Georgiana Rudge, Jesus and Anne Ruiz, Rich and Niki Santone, Anthony Scott, Doris Smith, Ernestine Smith, and Patricia Speece. If you have anything relating to gold and would like to bring it to share at next month, it would be a great addition to our meeting's program.

August Program

The program for our August 22 meeting will be "**Gold - Noble Metal Prized by Man**". If you missed this program presented by Chuck Boblenz and Bill Gissler at the April SCVG&MS Show, here is your chance to see a repeat and more. The program will feature a slide presentation on unique gold specimens and include a six page handout on everything you wanted to know about Gold. Club Minera-leers lead by Chuck Boblenz and Frank Monez will share their secrets in finding and recovering Gold from western streams and rivers. You are invited to share your experiences on seeking this elusive metal and encouraged to bring related specimens or items to share during member displays.

SUNSHINE

No news is good news, but if you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact our sunshine person, Ernestine Smith, (408) 395-5035.

July Program Reviewed by Bill Gissler

Sedimentary and vein agates, a CFMS library video, by Doug Moore, of the Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, was the July program. The video showed many examples of agates found in sedimentary rock and how they differed significantly from amygdaloidal agates which formed in gas - bubble cavities in lava flows.

In introduction to the program, Bill Gissler distributed an 8 page handout which included reference reading material, some key explanation quotes from the program, definitions of terms, and copies from the British Museum's publication "Agates" which described the theories accounting for the formation of agates. Also available for attendees to inspect were a copy of Roger Clark's book "South Dakota's Fairburn Agate" and Michael Carlson's book "The Beauty of Banded Agates".

Member News

This month we have two new members.

1. Karen Welder, 22682 Summit Rd., Los Gatos, 95033. (408) 353-2675 email address klwelder@yahoo.com. Karen is interested in cutting, polishing, and collecting.
2. Dean Welder, 22682 Summit Rd., Los Gatos, 95033. (408) 353-2675 email address wdeanwelder@yahoo.com. Dean is interested in cutting, polishing, collecting, fossils, geology, and minerals.

Welcome Karen and Dean. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

SCVGMS Calendar



August 9 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

August 12 Demo Day at the Cabana Club from 10-4. Call Marc Mullaney for more information (408) 971-6651.

August 16 2007 Show meeting Meeting /place to be determined, Call Marc Mullaney for more information, (408) 971-6651.

August 20 NBFT meeting in Grass Valley

August 22 *BBQ/ Potluck at 6:30*
Regular business meeting at 7:45

August 23 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

August 24 Board meeting at Larry Moore's home (650) 941-4966

September 11 Mineraleers meeting at Chuck Boblenz' home (408) 734-2473

September 26 *Regular business meeting*

September 28 Board meeting at Lynn Toschi's home (408) 353-3323

October 21 Club field trip to Clear Creek

October 24 *Regular business meeting*

October 26 Board meeting at Frank Monez's home (408) 578-7067

November 28 *Regular business meeting, election of officers, and Silent Auction at 7:45*

November 30 Board meeting at John Eichhorn's home (408) 749-0523

December 5 Installation Dinner at the Three Flames Restaurant. Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

December 7 Combined Board Meeting at Pat Speece's home (408) 266-4327

Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

For information on any of these trips contact John Eichhorn, (408) 749-0523.

August 12-13 Lakeview OR Tallman Show and Field trips

August 20 West of Red Bluff, Spider Mine for rhodonite

Aug 21-24 Virgin Valley NV for opal

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

Sept 8-10 Black Rock Desert for geodes, Christmas Jasper, Black Rock Agate, petrified wood, and fossil leaves.

Oct 2-6 Petrified Forest National Park AZ

Oct 7 Soapstone Ridge CA for soapstone

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

October 21 to Clear Creek for Jade, Plasma Agate, Selenite Roses, and Marcasite.

Do you like to participate in activities on BLM Land? Are you interested in the proposed changes that will affect everyone's ability to use federal lands in Central California?

If so, contact Frank Monez, (408) 578-7067, he has a copy of the proposed plan for your review

OR go to the following Website, <http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister> to view the documents online. Frank is looking for people who would like to review the contents of the proposed RMP and Final EIS.

The deadline for comments to the BLM on their proposed plans is August 14, 2006 make sure you call Frank soon.

Did you know?

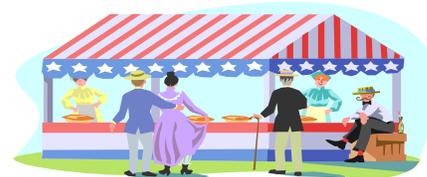
Quarrying Granite

Archeologists working in the famous Aswan granite quarry have removed the dust and debris to study how the massive obelisks of ancient Egypt were quarried. Not only have they found many obelisk-shaped pits, they have uncovered the ruins of the quarry harbor site where the great stones were loaded on barges ferried down the Nile. They have found "order forms" for two more obelisks for the temple of Karnak, requested by Pharaoh Thutmose III. Thousands of dolerite balls were found, the instruments used by workmen to pound the granite obelisks out of the bedrock and to shape them. Dolerite is harder than granite. The site, pits, and dolerite balls will be open to tourists.

via *Archeology* magazine; via the *Agatizer*; via *Moroks*, 7/04

CFMS Show Schedule

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



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

August 5-6 2006, San Francisco, CA San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society San Francisco County Fair Building Ninth Avenue & Lincoln Way Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10-5 Ellen Nott (415) 564-4230
September 1-4 2006, Fort Bragg, CA Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society Town Hall, Main & Laurel Hours: Fri - Sun. 10 - 6; Mon. 10 - 4 Don McDonell (707) 964-3116

September 16-17 2006, Paso Robles, CA Santa Lucia Rockhounds Pioneer Park and Museum 2010 Riverside Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Joyce Baird (805) 462-9544 Email: liloysee@charter.net

September 16-17 2006, Redwood City, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society Community Activities Building 1400 Roosevelt Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Show Website:

www.freewebs.com/seqgmsociety/index.htm

Carol Corden (650) 248-7155/ ccorden@earthlink.net

September 23 2006, Los Altos, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Recreation with Rocks Rancho Shopping Center Foothill Expressway & Springer Road Hours: Sat. 9:30am - 4:45pm

Jennifer House (408) 243-7025

September 23-24 2006, Carmel, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Monterey Fairgrounds 2004 Fairgrounds Road Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Sky Paston (831) 755-7741 Email: sky@familystones.net Website: www.cvgms.org

September 22, 23, 24 2006, San Bernardino, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society 6th Annual Rock, Gem, & Jewelry Tailgate Ball Park 6707 Little League Drive in San Bernardino Hours: Fri./Sat. 9 - 6; Sun. 9 - 4 Mike Woolery (909) 882-6806 Al Carrell (951) 961-5988

September 23-24 2006, Downey, CA Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Woman's Club of Downey 9813 Paramount Blvd Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4 Teresa Widdison (562) 867-1521 Email: twiddison72@aol.com

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

October 1 2006, Falbrook, CA Falbrook Gem & Mineral Society 123 W. Alva (FGMS Headquarters) Hours: 10 - 4 Club Web Site: www.fgms.org There is a map on web site Janice Bricker (760) 728-1333

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

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

October 14 2006, West Hills, CA Woodland Hills Rock Chippers Eighth Annual Gem & Mineral Show 22700 Sherman Way Hours: 10 - 5 Virginia Rotramel (818) 790-7598 Email show@rockchippers.org

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

October 21-22 2006, Whittier, CA Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Jay Valle (626) 934-9764 Email res19pnb@verizon.net

October 27-28 2006, Northridge, CA Del Air Rockhounds Gemboree United Methodist Church 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.) Hours: Friday 3 pm - 9:30 pm; Sat. 10 - 5 Bim Wendler (818) 993-0119 Email: del_air_rockhounds@yahoo.com

October 28-29 2006, Stockton, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral San Joaquin County Fairgrounds 1658 Airport Way Hours: 10 - 5 Jim Dunlap (209) 478-0747 Show Website: www.Stocktonlapidary.com

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

November 4-5 2006, Concord, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre Concord; 5298 Clayton Road Hours: 10 - 5 each day Bill McKay (925) 439-8195 Email: williammckay@hotmail.com

November 4-5 2006, Lancaster, CA Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club "Rock n Gem Roundup" Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H Hours: 9 - 5 both days Susan Walblom (661) 943-1861 Rodney Shillings (661) 400-5198 Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com Website: pgmc@antelecom.net

November 4-5 2006, Ridgecrest, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds Call (760) 375-8000 for RV parking 520 S. Richmond Road Hours: 9 - 5 both days John De Rosa (760) 375-7905

November 4-5 2006, San Diego, CA San Diego Mineral & Gem Society Al Bahr Shrine Center (behind Hampton Inn) 5440 Kearny Mesa Road Hours: Sat. 9:30 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Wayne Moorhead (858) 586-1637

November 10-12 2006, Sacramento, CA Sacramento Mineral Society 64th. Annual "Harvest of Gems" Scottish Rite Center 6151 H Street Hours: Fri. 9 - 5; Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4 Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153 Email: jfosback@aol.com

November 11-12 2006, Yuba City, CA Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds (Franklin Hall) 442 Franklin Avenue Hours: 9 - 4 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

November 18-19 2006, Livermore, CA Livermore Valley Lithophiles The Barn; 3131 Pacific Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Joyce & Dick Friesen (925) 447-8223 Email: friesenjoyce@ixinet.com.net

November 18-19 2006, Oxnard, CA Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society Oxnard Performing Arts Center 800 Hobson Way Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Norb Kinsler (805) 644-6450 Show website: www.ogms.net

November 18-19 2006, Victorville, CA Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club San Bernardino County Fairgrounds 14800 7th Street Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Jo Ann McPurdy (760) 217-2628 Website: www.gbeal5084@aol.com

November 25-26 2006, Barstow, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Barstow Community Center 841 Barstow Road Hours: 10 - 5 both days Gene Haines (760) 256-0595

December 2-3 2006, Orangevale, CA American River Gem & Mineral Society Orangevale Grange 5805 Walnut Avenue (near Madison Avenue) Hours: 10 - 5 both days Evelyn Tipton (916) 372-3452 Email ektipton@charter.net

2007 Shows

January 20-21 2007, Exeter, CA Tule Gem & Mineral Society Exeter Veteran's Memorial Bldg. Hwy 65 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Steve Hayward (559) 734-3843 Email: smhay734@aol.com

March 3-4 2007, Ventura, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society The Ventura Gem Show: Gems; Minerals, Lapidary Arts, & Fossils Seaside Park- Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Ed Clark (805) 983-0028 Email: clarkoe@adelphia.net

March 10-11 2007, Turlock, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society Stanislaus County Fairgrounds Hours: 10 - 5 Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494 Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com

June 15-17 2007, Lancaster, CA Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley Fairgrounds Hours: 9-5 Daily Email: pgmc@antelecom.net

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS

By Frank Monez, PLAC, Chairman

I received a copy of "The Fee-Free Press" flier from one of our CFMS members. The flier was distributed by the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition. The essence of their flier was that no admission fees should be required to enter any Federal recreation areas. In the Fall of 2005, a fee system with a title of "America the Beautiful Pass" was mentioned at several meetings and described in several articles. I tried to do a little research on the subject, including review of various AFMS newsletters, and other possible documentation. The only conclusion I could draw from the articles and written words was, and is, confusion. References were made to publication and review meetings in 2006, but I have not seen any positive statements indicating any such meetings were, or are, scheduled.

Back in January, the Hollister Office of BLM talked about the coming "America the Beautiful" pass for BLM, Forest Service land, National Parks, etc. I called the Hollister BLM Office and got the present status "of a pass". I say "a pass" because "America the Beautiful" is copyrighted and they must change the name. They are now talking possible resolution and issue of a pass in the Fall of 2007 for the Clear Creek area.

In the interim period, the "Golden Age Passport", and related passes, will be utilized by the Federal Government. I found the following passes are currently in use: "Annual Adventure Pass", "Daily Adventure Pass", "2 ND Vehicle Adventure Pass", "Golden Age Passport", "Golden Access", and "Golden Eagle Pass".

I'll try to keep on this and insert any documented changes in the "Breccia".

Minerals and Their Uses

By Betty Jones from the Shin-Skinner News 12/04

Part 10 Gold

Christmas is upon us—the season of celebration and glittering gold and shimmering silver. Mostly, it is artificial—tinsel and glass ornaments. But we love it—and hope for some of the real thing in the boxes under the tree.

Since time began, man has loved and worshiped gold and silver, so the history of both metals is long. Gold was known as a precious metal four thousand years before Christ, and was valued as a precious metal by the Sumerians, Egyptians, Aztecs, Incas, and Mayans; the Greeks and The Romans. It was used as money by the Lydians, Egyptians, and later, the Romans.

Gold has always been a symbol of wealth and power and even today remains as a monetary standard.

Gold was in widespread use by 3050 B.C. in Egypt, where it was mined in Nubia (the Sudan) an Egyptian Province. At first, the gold was cold-hammered to shape, but it was melted and soldered to shape the object. In fact, the Egyptian goldsmiths used most of the same techniques we do today, and were masters of their craft, as shown by the wonderful artifacts that have been unearthed in the tombs of Egypt, e.g., King Tutankhamen's tomb.

Not only Egypt mined and used gold. Excavations we know that Ur of Mesopotamia (Iraq) and the ancient cities of Mycenae, and Troy valued the metal. Troy being on the gold trade route of the Dardanelles meant it had control of an important trade route—so maybe the Trojan war was fought over gold, not Helen!

Of course, gold was important as a prize or loot of wars which seemed to be as frequent and as great in number as they are today. In Lydia, they learned how to separate gold from the silver in naturally occurring rock called "electrum".

King Croesus (560—530 B.C.) of Lydia brought in a bi metallic currency, and then King Cyrus (500— 530 B.C.) created a great fortune by taking Lydia in battle— he acquired great riches and the gold-rich river Pactolus in 547 B.C. Gold helped the Persian Empire and later led to a coinage system which may have brought the power of Alexander the Great and possibly his success in conquering Persia.

The Romans were also greedy for gold and with their huge empire were able to obtain it from Bosnia, Dalmatia, the Carpathians, Bohemia, Austria, Germany, and the Iberian peninsular, as well as placer gold from the Rhine and Rhone. Gold poured into Rome and was used to trade with India and China for the Luxuries of the East. However, as Western Rome's power declined her armies grew smaller and less gold was available. Gold mining almost ceased. Less gold was used in the coinage and more silver, until eventually all currency was silver.

At the time of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman), gold was obtained from Nubia and the gold "bezant" was the currency for 800 years. The Muslims' gold "dinar" was minted from Baghdad to Cordova and used in trade with the East, and in Europe for buying tin, fur, and slaves.

Eventually gold came back into use in Europe as currency. In Italy, Florence produced the "florin" and Venice, the "ducat".

The improvement in the economy of Europe led to an increase in gold mining and panning in the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries in Poland, Transylvania, Saxony, and Bavaria. Russia discovered her first gold in 1745, leading to a rise in wealth of this country.

Nothing compared to the amount of gold that came out of Africa. From Central Africa, caravans transported gold through the Sahara to North Africa and along the east coast. In 1471, the Portuguese discovered the Gold Coast and the gold trade here lasted until the 16th century.

It was in the 15th century that Columbus discovered America. South America became the preserve of the Portuguese and Spanish who brought back to Europe legendary amounts of gold and gold artifacts, from the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais.

Article continued on page 10

BE SAFE BE WELL

By Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair from the May 06 AFMS Newsletter

CALCULATED RISK

We often use the term "calculated risk" but I wonder if we always think about what we are saying. The term "calculated risk" should be clearly defined in our mind. In order to do this for myself I reverted to the training I received in elementary school which involves "breaking down" anything we are not clear about. The risk part we probably understand but what about the "calculated"? Do we think through the issue or just use the term to justify things that did not go well but obviously could not be our fault. Surprisingly enough I think we really do consider potential outcomes more often than we think we do. I think we often look at a situation in terms of risk vs. reward. Some examples I would suggest include:

- The situation that may arise when we are cutting a cabochon from a stone. One of my mentors, the one and only E. T. Pike always said, "don't cut any garbage." He meant if a stone shows evidence of a crack or a fissure, don't use it. Now if it is the only stone you have of a particular color or pattern, you may want to take that "calculated risk."
- You have assembled your torch outfit and are preparing to solder or heat something. You smell the faintest whiff of acetylene and think that you will not take time to soap test all of the joints. This is NOT a good calculated risk. Don't shortcut safety procedures. Another tool we might employ is probability. What are the odds that something unplanned and undesirable will happen? Think about the following situations:
 - You are on a field trip and the weather conditions indicate that we might experience a small storm with lightning. Do you really want to tempt fate or do you follow the safer route and take cover. You are thinking this is a "no brainer" and all of us will take cover but you are wrong. Many people do not follow the recommended guidelines and become statistics.
 - You are rock hunting in a dry wash in a desert area and notice that it is raining in the nearby mountains. Do you head for higher ground or decide that a flash flood is so unlikely that you will just continue digging?
 - You are soldering and you are using flux that you found at a garage sale. You know that some fluxes are not user friendly but this one looks a little like something you have used before. Are you willing to gamble that the fumes are not dangerous?
 - You do not have the proper tool to cut, pry or shape something in your shop or, even worse, you do not have at hand the appropriate eye protection. Is this a chance you are willing to take? Have we not all heard that we should use the right tool for the job?
 - We all know that some rocks can be hazardous because of the chemical composition of the rock. (We are not talking about those we find at our favorite rock shop that can be hazardous to our wealth!) There are so many beautiful specimens that contain some bad stuff like arsenic; we all need to learn more. I am in the process of gathering some of this sort of information because I KNOW that there is so

much that I do not know.

There is an old country expression that says that we have "not touched the hem of the garment" and I have only begun to touch the issue of calculated risk.

My closing admonition is the we must THINK and try to avoid doing the stupid things that will hurt us. As I sit here and type this message I admire my hands and realize that I always have cuts, burns, abrasions and contusions and I know that most of them resulted from inattention (which is a 35-cent word for stupidity). So, I am not just preaching to the choir. I am just as guilty as many of you.

—From AFMS Newsletter, May 2006

2006 Founder's Day Picnic Report

by June Harris

The annual Founder's Day picnic was held on July 16, 2006 at the Cabana Club in Los Gatos. 43 people were in attendance. Members were asked to bring either a salad or dessert to share with other attendees. The club provided barbecued tri-tip and chicken, bread, paper goods, and drinks. There was a raffle and we played bingo following our meal. It appeared that everyone had a great time.

Thank you to Pat Speece for arranging the raffle and thank you to John Eichhorn for running the bingo games. Also thank you to George and Jane Yamashita helping with the shopping, setup, teardown, and barbecuing the chicken. A great big thank you to my husband, Randy Harris, for all his help with setup, barbecuing, teardown, and helping load and unload the mountain of necessary tools and equipment needed for the barbecue. Thanks again to everyone who chipped in and help make this year's picnic a wonderful success.

FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC RAFFLE

Here's some interesting trivia:

32 prizes were won by 18 people.

\$42 worth of tickets were sold (that's 84 tickets).

The Belcher family won the most prizes (5).

The Yamashita family won 4 prizes.

John and Suzi Bahr won 4 prizes.

John and Sylvia Palmieri won 3 prizes.

Daymond and Pat Speece won 3 prizes.

Ernestine Smith won 2 prizes, as did June Warne.

All other winners won one prize.

Prizes came from donations from club members, from dealers at our show, and from the big rock-donation from George Ginn. All donations are greatly appreciated. Without them, we would not have a raffle --- or happy winners.

Thank you. Pat Speece

By the 15th century, it is estimated man had mined 12,500 tons of gold, but by the 20th century, this had risen to 145,000 tons-according to the world Gold Council. This figure of course, relates to the huge gold rushes of the 19th Century in California (1849), Australia (1851), South Africa (1886) and the Yukon (1898) and of Klondike of Alaska.

What is it that makes gold so all-important to man above all the other metals and minerals? It is, of course, the character of gold.

Gold is a 'noble' metal as opposed to the base metals such as lead. It is named "noble" because it is not affected by the ordinary acids and alkalis in nature. It can be buried at sea for centuries and is discovered, when raised to the surface, to be as clean and shimmering as though recently mined.

Its other important quality is its softness (H. 2 1/2 -23). Because it is so soft, it is often alloyed to other metals to increase its hardness. Alloyed with silver, it is slightly harder, but with copper it is much harder. The addition of one of the other noble metals will increase the hardness—niobium, tantalum, palladium, or platinum.

Being so soft, gold is very malleable which allows it to be shaped or easily hammered to produce gold leaf or foil and rolled to make gold wire. It is also highly reflective—the aerospace industry uses gold to coat heat sensitive parts. Copper and silver are also very reflective, but unlike gold, they oxidize, so gold is preferable.

The density of gold is 19-23 grams per cubic centimeter—the densest of all known metals. This causes it to accumulate and makes it possible to recover it from placer deposits.

Gold is a rare element. Of the 92 elements that occur naturally, gold is the 73rd most common. No wonder it is prized.

The color of pure gold is golden yellow, but specimen gold usually contains some silver, and this affects the color of the gold which can vary from deep gold to almost white, depending on the amount of color present. In the jewelry industry, white gold is around 90 weight per cm. Of gold and 10 weight per cm. Of nickel. There are many gradations of color—yellow, white, red, and pale green tones.

Gold crystallizes in the isometric system, sometimes in cubes, sometimes in Octahedrons (8 faces) and rhombic dodecahedrons (12 faces) or sometimes with even more faces. Samples come in many shapes and forms—in feather, ribbons, wires, and dendritic or fernlike sprays. California is famous for the beautiful gold specimens found here. Such examples are few and far between, though.

Much gold is found disseminated in hard rock deposits and will only be economical to mine if at least 1-5 grams per ton can be obtained.

Such was the case at a gold mine in Kalgoorlie, W. Australia, which Peter and I visited in 1978. We went down in a lift to the second level where a miner gave us earplugs and proceeded to drill the rock. The noise was unbelievable, and the rock a very uninteresting greenish-gray, with no sign of gold—disappointing but true. The gold would have to be extracted, after crushing, by chemical means.

Gold is found in almost every country in the world in some quantity. Almost all countries of Africa have produced gold, but the world's largest producer is South Africa where the famous Witwatersrand region has produced 700-1000 tons of gold per year over a century.

Because of its non-toxic quality, malleability, and resistance to oxidation and corrosion, gold is used in modern dentistry for crowns, bridges, and dentures. It is also used in the treatment of many diseases, especially rheumatoid arthritis, and is being examined by doc-

tors as a possible treatment for AIDS.

It is ideal for use in organ transplant devices and gold wires are used in pacemakers. However, the most important use of gold, other than jewelry and ornamentation is in the provenance of wealth and power.

Most of all the gold mined remains as ingots, locked in various mints across the world. The rest is probably in the form of jewelry locked away in safes.

References:

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"Did You Know"

Occurrence of Gold in Rock Formations

by Gerald Losser GMSVP
via The Virginia Pen 9/05

The Geology of the three types of the World's Hydrothermal rock deposits that are mined for gold are:

- A) High-Temperature deposits that usually occur together in rocks with the sulfide minerals, examples: quartz, pyrite, calcopyrite, arsenopyrite, epidote.
- B) Mid-Temperature gold deposits that yield native gold usually are associated with the following: barite, calcite, quartz, and low temperature tellurides.
- C) Low Temperature deposits include rocks with native silver, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, silver sulfides, marcasite. Low temperature deposits tend to be rich in silver, sometimes, if the silver content is over 20%, it is called electrum.

Native gold is mainly found in milky white bull quartz with sulfides. The high temperature gold veins in Australian ore deposits yield gold 99% pure, in Cripple Creek deposits yield 89% pure, California deposits yield 90% pure gold. Low temperature deposits in Romania yield 20% silver. In South Africa, Witwatersrand gold deposits have evidence that the gold was originated by some biological action in alluvial deposits where the beach gravels are compressed and cemented in uplifted ledges called reefs to a mine depth of 2 1/2 miles.

Scientists have reported that microbes can make solid gold, a simple microscopic organism as extremophiles can survive hot springs and volcanic vents. In the ocean they are able to inhale the dissolved gold in the sea water and convert it into solid deposits. It has been also stated there is a probability that extremophiles microbes were responsible for the gold that the miners found when they searched for gold in the Southeastern United States in the early 1800's.

DOPPING GEMSTONES

by Ed Wengerd, via Gem Cutters News, May 2006

When cutting cabochons it's always best to put a handle on the stone that you're working so you can have better control over your work. Handles are really called "dop sticks" or "dops" for short and can be made from almost any material. The most popular is a piece of dowel rod, cut about 3 or 4 inches long. You can also use a round clothes pin, nails, or purchase aluminum dops. You'll need to have these in an assortment of diameters to fit the stones you are cutting. You wouldn't want to have a tiny dop for a huge stone or a huge dop for a tiny stone.

The best adhesive for attaching the dop to the stone is a special green wax called appropriately enough "dop wax". This wax melts at a fairly low temperature and has good adhering qualities that make it ideal for stone work. Dop wax also comes in red and black versions, but these melt at different temperatures and are not as good for holding cabochons to dops.

To attach a dop properly, you first need to melt the wax. You need to do this slowly and at a controlled temperature. I use a small metal pan set on top of a #10 can. I've cut out the bottom of the can and made an opening in one side so that an alcohol lamp can be easily slid inside. There is enough clearance between the lamp and the top and sides of the can to allow this to work well. It takes about 10 minutes for the wax to get to a molten state - but not too thin or too hot. It just has to flow slowly for it to be hot enough. If the wax starts to smoke, you've heated it too much.

An easier, and perhaps better way to heat the wax, is to use one of the specially made electric wax heaters. These have a small depression where you melt a bit of the wax, plus a flat surface that you can use for heating the stone and/or dop. The nice thing about these devices is that the heat on the wax remains at a constant temperature and you don't have to worry about the wax getting too hot.

While the wax is heating, clean the stone you're going to dop. I use alcohol or sometimes acetone, but be sure that the room is well vented if you use the acetone. The purpose of cleaning the stones is to re-

move any traces of cutting oil or oil from your hands that would prevent the dop wax from sticking to the stone. It's also a good idea to clean off the dop stick, especially the metal kind.

Warm the stone a bit. I place mine on the tin can next to the melting dop wax. On an electric heater you can put it on the platform next to the dop pot. Heat the metal dop stick too. Remember to put your stone face down so that when you're ready to put everything together you attach your "handle" to the back side!

Melting the wax may take anywhere from 10 - 30 minutes depending on the heat source and the quantity of wax in your pot. Once it's melted to the fluid state, twirl the end of the dop stick around in the wax. You want to pick up a good quantity of wax on the stick. Then, put the stick down on the back of your stone. Center it as best you can. Move the stone off the heating surface and let it set a couple of seconds. Then dip your fingers in water to prevent burning and squish the dop wax around the stone and stick to make a conical shape. You want about 3/4 of the back of the stone covered by wax and you want the wax to stick to both the stone and the stick with the widest possible base you can make.

Let everything cool completely before you start to grind! To remove the dop stick simply put the stone in the freezer for about 10 minutes. The wax becomes brittle and separates from the stone with ease. Do not do this with opal or other stones that contain a high concentration of liquid or they will fracture.

If you do not have a freezer handy, just reheat the stone slightly over an alcohol lamp or put it on the metal surface next to your dop pot. The wax will begin to soften and will quickly separate from the stick. A warm knife can then be used to scrape the remaining wax from the back of the stone.

Hints

When buying a gold chain make sure that the karat mark appears on a part of the chain other than the clasp. If only the clasp is marked, the chain may be plated and not real gold.

via The Tumble Rumble, Jan. 2006; via Palomar Gem, May 2002; via The Tektite, March 2001; via the Jewelers of America.

How to Write an Article for Your Club's Bulletin *In Twelve*

Steps By Terry Yoschak, Roseville Rock Rollers Bulletin Editor

via CFMS newsletter 9/05

Based on "Getting Your Club to Write," by Dennis Westman, Minnesota Mineral Club, in *S.C.R.I.B. E. Newsletter*, Oct-Dec 2004 and *On Writing*, by Stephen King, Simon & Schuster, 2000.

Step 1. Pick a subject that interests you. It could be a story about something you've done (collecting agates, panning for gold), or it could be research about something you've never done (digging up dinosaur fossils in Antarctica).

Step 2. Map it out. Planning is everything. You have to figure out how to get from A to Z in your story. Outline with pencil & paper the bare bones of your story. Jot down important things you "must have" in the article (where the collecting took place, how many gold nuggets you found). Keep in mind the five W's of journalism: Who, What, Where, When, Why. Your outline should include all of them.

Step 3. Start writing. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation. That's what editors are for. Refer back to your outline, use your own voice, and let the story flow naturally, as you would tell it to a friend. With your outline, you won't forget all those exciting tidbits you might have left out if you were just spouting off to your friends.

Step 4. Plot, characters, scenery, and dialogue. If you were submitting a movie script, you'd be kicked out of the producer's office for leaving any of these items out. A story can't be a story without them; it won't "sell" to the audience. Let's cover those four items in the next few steps.

Step 5. Plot. Writing is not rambling. The ideas of Beginning, Middle and End are universal to all stories. Usually a normal timeline is followed, where "what happened next" is the rule. The most common exception to this rule is a flashback ("The saber-toothed cat plunged into the sticky tar pit, unaware that his fossilized bones would be left for us to find 20,000 years later.")

Step 6. Characters. The people who are in the story: it's your job to describe them, from height, age, hair color and clothing, to habits and attitude. Simply

writing that "Jake drove us as far as Mesquite," is not the same as writing, "With Jake's spiky green hair and his crazy attitude towards other drivers on the road, we feared we'd never make it to Mesquite." Strictly, only people can be characters, but no one will complain if animals, plants and rocks have personalities in your story as well.

Step 7. Scenery. The setting of the story, including the natural landscape and the man-made objects in it (roads, tools, vehicles, buildings, etc.) This is where you can really get imaginative with descriptions, since no two people see the same object in the same way. If you want to describe a yellow crystal as "lemony" or an empty desert as "filled with the promise of geological secrets," it's up to you.

Step 8. Dialogue. What the characters say in the story. Though many stories are written without dialogue, it's usually more interesting if you include some. Writing that "Julie was excited about her fossil find," is less interesting than writing, "We all heard Julie yell, 'I think I found a complete tooth!' Internal dialogue — describing your thoughts and emotions --also adds to a story, making it more compelling than a "just the facts, ma'am" report.

Step 9. Go back and revise. You've written your story by now, following Steps I through 8. But it's pretty rough; it could be better. Go back over it, maybe read it out loud to a friend, add a few things you forgot, or cut out some unnecessary sentences. Substitute a better word or phrase for the ones you wrote originally. Polish it. Rockhounds all know that most everything looks better with a good polish on it.

Step 10. Give your story a title. A catchy title is always a plus, and will draw readers to your story. "Titanic" is a better title than "An Interrupted Ocean Voyage." But don't go overboard! A simple, appropriate title is still better than a contrived, overly cute one.

Step 11. Space is a consideration. Everyone who writes for publication in print (bulletins, newspapers, magazines) must deal with space limitations. Cutting your work is often necessary. Writer Stephen King says that you should always cut out or condense at least one-third of everything you've written. It's like over packing for a trip: when you return home, you realize that you didn't need to cart around all that extra baggage. In the real world, an editor will have to cut your story if you don't do it yourself.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

Step 12. **Prepare for next time.** If you weren't entirely happy with your first story, think about future possibilities. Carry a small notebook with you and jot down observations about people, scenery, conversations, etc. You'll be surprised how easily this will guide you in completing Steps 1 through 8.

Thank you note from the
CFMS to SCVGMS:
Dear SCVGMS,
Thank you for your generous
donation of stamps to the CFMS
to support Easter Seals.
Debbie Bunn, CFMS

What do you do with the
cancelled stamps that
on your mail?

Most people throw them out,
but rockhounds save them
to donate to the CFMS.
Ruth Bailey collects them
and turns them over to
Debbie Bunn who collects
them for Easter Seals.
Easter Seals sells the
cancelled stamps
to collectors. The money
made from the sale of the
stamps helps purchase items
not covered under Easter
Seals regular yearly budget.

SO SAVE YOUR CANCELLED
STAMPS AND GIVE THEM
TO RUTH BAILEY.
Please leave a minimum of
1/4 inch of the envelope
around the stamp.

Selecting a Chain

via Quarry Quips, April 2006; via Pickin's and Diggins, April 2006; via Rock Rollers, 11/95; from The Olsen Company of Seattle Washington

With our many years of repairing chains, we would like to pass along to you some important tips for choosing a chain.

1. Decide if you will be wearing a pendant on your chain. This alone will help determine the type of chain that will give you the best service. Many flat link Italian Chains cannot support even the lightest weight pendant.
2. A chain should be smooth. If it has sharp bites when you run it through your fingers, it will be uncomfortable to wear. In time it will wear out whatever you hang on it.
3. A chain should be flexible, especially if you wear pendants. If a chain will not bend, it will kink and often break. You can tell if a chain is flexible by letting it coil in the palm of your hand.
4. A chain should have soldered links for strength. Most flat link chains and Italian style chains are soldered and then run through a rolling mill, which may break or weaken the solder joints.
5. Avoid hollow chains. Gold is an expensive metal. Consumers should be aware that to cut cost, many imported chains are made with hollow links. If you could see a cross section of one of these, it would look like gold foil. How do these chains hold up? They don't, worst of all they are impossible to repair. In our shop, we will not repair hollow chains. They are a nightmare.

Gold in Them Thar Stars

By Kathy A. Stivil

Via Shawnee Slate, 4-04; via Rocky Mountain Fed. News, 3/04; via Hy-Grader, 1/04; via *Earth*

The origin of platinum and gold is every bit as exotic as the metals themselves, says astrophysicist Stephan Rosswog of the University of Leicester in England. These precious elements arise during one of the rarest and most violent events in the cosmos; the cataclysmic merger of two neutron stars, ultra-dense stellar remnants that pack the mass of half a million Earth's into a ball the size of Manhattan.

Astronomers have long understood that nuclear fusion in stars creates middleweight elements such as carbon and oxygen, but these reactions cannot create super heavy platinum and gold. Rosswog therefore started investigating the far more intense conditions that arise when two orbiting neutron stars spiral in toward each other. "in the beginning it is a very slow process, lasting 100 million years or more. But the last 100 kilometers (about 60 miles) before they merge is violent and fast, lasting less than half a second," he says.

New supercomputer simulations devised by Rosswog and his colleagues indicate that a great deal of nuclear alchemy occurs during the last few milliseconds. The merger unleashes so much energy that it briefly outshines anything else in the universe. Most of the material quickly collapses into a black hole, but some of it spews out in a flood of super-hot neutrons and atomic nuclei. The nuclei quickly mop up the stray neutrons, forming heavy elements such as lead, gold, and platinum. Although neutron-star collisions occur just once every 100,000 years in a typical galaxy, that's often enough to account for all of the precious metals on Earth.

"Did you Know" Gold Alloy Spectrum

By Gerald Losser, GMSVP

via The Virginia Pen, 03-05

While pure gold has a rich golden yellow color, it is seldom ever found in nature in the pure state, but is always associated with other elements which change the color. When alloyed with mercury, it may have a bronzy white color, or when associated with iron pyrites it may be colored brown or red, when manganese is present the color is jet black.

When pure gold is alloyed and combined with other metallic elements, using specific percentages

in the mixture, many colors of gold and physical properties can be obtained. An alloy of gold and silver together give a pale yellow color; gold and titanium, dark yellow; a combination of copper, silver, and gold, rose to pink; a mixture of gold and aluminum, purple; gold with iron, blue; gold with silver and trace of copper, green; gold alloyed with nickel produces white gold.

Pure gold 24 Karat per se is too soft to make jewelry (can be cut with a knife) however it can be electroplated on top of other metallic elements for the durability, and also displays a rich natural metallic 24 karat golden yellow coating.

Remarks: Imagine all the possible different jewelry creations that can be custom made when combined, for example, a rose gold ring with pink diamonds, purple gold with an amethyst, blue gold with a sapphire, etc. The purest gold found in nature is generally found crystallized in the seams of rocks containing quartz or calcite veins that were deposited during its occurrence under hydro-thermal conditions.

Golden Trivia

via Tumbler, 5/05; via Pebble Trails, 2/05; via Hy-grader, 1/05; via Ft. Lewis Rock Club News, 11/04

Gold is one of the most recycled substances of all. It's quite possible that the gold contained in the first nuggets found over 6,000 years ago still exist today, melted and recast into a contemporary piece of jewelry or as the filling in your teeth. Worldwide, wedding rings are probably the single biggest gold jewelry item. One of the traditions of the wedding ring on the third finger, left hand is found in ancient Egyptian writing that describes the third finger as being connected by an artery to the heart. The innermost coffin of the three used to bury the young Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen is probably the biggest gold object to have survived from antiquity. Uncovered in 1922, it represents 2,448 pounds of 22 karat gold, decorated inside and out.

In the western world, the proportion of gold is expressed in karats, using a scale of 24 karats as being 100% pure gold. If a piece of jewelry is made of 18 karat gold, it is 18 parts gold, and 6 parts other metal, usually silver or copper. Gold is one of the most ductile and malleable of all metals. One ounce can be stretched into a wire five miles long or in a sheet so thin it covers 100 square feet. Gold has an extremely low resistance to electric current, and won't corrode or tarnish. A touch tone phone has 33 gold contacts.

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting minutes
July 23, 2006

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. Minutes were approved as printed in the Breccia. The Board meeting will be at Bill Gissler's home on Thursday, July 27 at 7:30 PM.

Correspondence: We received show fliers from the Sequoia Club

New Members: Jim Ziegler, Jennifer Le, Ed Ferner, Eileen Ferner, and Grace Santos were presented with their new member packets.

Hospitality: There were 35 members and 1 guest in attendance tonight.

PLAC: See details in the Breccia

Field Trips: See details in the Breccia.

Study Groups: See details in the Breccia.

Founder's Day Picnic: See details in the Breccia.

Federation Report: Ruth Bailey reported that there might still be openings for Camp Paradise.

Program: See details in the Breccia.

Member Displays: See details in the Breccia.

Dues: If you have not paid your dues yet, please pay them.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Members and guests enjoyed refreshments after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Harris, Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Board Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2006

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM at the home of Bill Gissler. All board members were present except Lynn Toschi. Parliamentarian remains vacant. M/ S/ P to approve the minutes for the June 29, 2006 meeting as read.

Donation Committee: M/ S/ P to change the name of the Donation Committee to Donation Receiving Committee.

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

New Members: M/ S/ P to accept Dean and Karen Welder for membership.

Communications: We received a Dodge and Cox report, fliers for the Gem Faire, a questionnaire from the Peninsula Library System, a flier from Diamond Dan Publications, and show fliers from the El Dorado Club.

Field Trips: See details in the Breccia.

Show Report: Marc Mullaney gave a brief report on the 2007 show.

Federation Report: Collect stamps from your mail for the CFMS.

PLAC: See details in the Breccia.

Unfinished Business: The lapidary shop at Shoup Park is being reconfigured. Mark Wartenberg is looking for help with the Junior Group. There was discussion about the Junior Rockhounds of America program. Demonstration Day will be held on August 12 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Faceters and Carvers need to refocus their groups.

Bylaws: Ruth Bailey and Pat Speece will review the current Bylaws for items that need to be updated.

New Business: M/ S/ P to add enough money to the Founder's Day Raffle money to send a \$50 donation to the CFMS Endowment Fund. M/ S/ P to raise the mileage reimbursement to the amount allowed by the IRS.

M/ S/ P to adjourn at 9:14 PM.

Bill and Sharon Gissler served delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Harris

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
June and July 2006 Treasurer's Report
July 27, 2006

Beginning Balance (as of May 24, 2006)		\$9454.05
June Receipts		
Tip Reimbursement	\$ 77.50	
Dues	\$130.00	
Rock Sale	\$125.00	
Bus Trip	\$ 30.00	
July Receipts		
Silent Auction	\$324.75	
New member dues and initiation fees	\$120.00	
Dues	\$315.00	
Return from FD Picnic Advance	\$ 75.39	
Rock Sale	\$265.00	
Picnic Raffle	\$ 42.00	
Donation to Mark Wartenberg for talk	\$ 20.00	
Sale of extra food from FD picnic	\$ 36.00	
Total Receipts		\$1560.64
June Disbursements		
Radio Advertisement for 2006 show	\$ 54.00	
Cabana Rental	\$110.00	
May Breccia printing	\$ 48.00	
Tip to Bus Driver	\$100.00	
July Disbursements		
Founder's Day Picnic advance	\$300.00	
Breccia postage (June-August, 2006)	\$ 67.25	
John Eicchorn jewelry benches	\$234.06	
P.O Box rental	\$ 28.00	
Sharr Choate Award for CFMS Show	\$ 48.71	
CFMS May program	\$ 7.50	
Show 2007 Kids Area	\$ 49.77	
June Breccia printing	\$ 51.96	
June meeting/ BBQ	\$154.58	
Treasurer's Expense (receipt books)	\$ 14.70	
Bill Gissler July program handouts	\$ 21.17	
Bob Brumbaugh Rock Guides	\$100.00	
Mark Wartenberg Tubs for storage	\$196.45	
Total Disbursements		\$1593.65
Ending Balance		\$9421.04