

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 55  
Number 11

San Jose, CA  
November, 2008

## SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Randy Harris  
(831) 438-5150  
Vice President: Rick Kennedy  
(408) 529-9690  
Secretary: John Eichhorn  
(408) 749-0523  
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:  
Chris Cherry (925) 200-0384  
Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584  
RK Owen (408) 377-5373  
Michael Paone (408) 340-3258  
Matt Wood (408) 744-9402  
Historian: Linda Spencer (408) 997-7319  
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder  
(408) 353-2675

## SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Donation Receiving Committee Chairman:  
George Yamashita  
Field Trip Committee Coordinator:  
Dean Welder  
Field Trip Committee: Randy Harris,  
John Eichhorn, & Marc Mullaney  
Financial Advisory Committee:  
Ruth Bailey & Chuck Boblenz  
Founder's Day Picnic Food:  
Nancy Reineking & Michael Paone  
Founder's Day Raffle: Claire Ferguson  
Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn  
Hospitality: Chris Cherry  
Installation Dinner: Marc Mullaney  
Librarian: Marsha Owen  
Member Displays: Rick Kennedy  
PLAC: (Public Lands Advisory Committee)  
Frank Monez  
Program: OPEN  
Refreshments: Linda Spencer  
Secret Auction: Donation Receiving Comm.  
Sergeant-at-arms: Vito Cangemi & JT Fuller  
Show 2008: Marc Mullaney  
Show 2009: Frank Mullaney  
Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri  
Social: June Harris  
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](http://www.scvgms.org)

Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto: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 November 25, 2008 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.***

***Our next board meeting will be on November 25, 2008, immediately following the general meeting.***

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 ten times annually. The deadline for most articles is the Sunday before the regular meeting. The Breccia Editor is June Harris who may be contacted by email at [juneconeyharris@yahoo.com](mailto:juneconeyharris@yahoo.com) or by phone at (831) 438-5150. The Breccia is proofread by Linda Spencer. Ruth Bailey handles 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 & Carvers	John Eichhorn	(408) 749-0523
Facet Cutters	Max Casey	(408) 227-0526
Fossileers	Gail Matthews	(650) 962-9960
Jewelers	Marc Mullaney	(408) 691-1584
Mineraleers	Chuck Boblenz	(408) 734-2473
Smithies	Kelly Van Vleck & Pat Speece	(408) 262-8187
	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327
Stringers	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327

# **Randy's Ramblings**

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

The Board has reserved the Cabana Club for our annual Installation Dinner. We are having it catered by Willow Street. The cost will be \$10 per adult, \$5 for children under 12. The food will be very good, and you can't beat the price. Please send in your reservation early so we can order the proper amount of food. The deadline for reservations is the November meeting. We will be having a Toys for Tots collection as we have in past years. Let Marc Mullaney know if you would like to help decorate the Cabana Club for the dinner.

The nomination committee has given their report on the candidates for the upcoming election. The election will be held at the next general meeting. Currently there are openings for several Board positions including Editor, Historian, and two Directors. The Directors would be a great place for any new members interested in helping with the inner workings of the club. The new President will be asking for people to serve on the committees for the next year. If you would like to chair a committee, please send me an E-mail or call to let me know what you would like to do. I will forward this information to the incoming President. There are several positions open. The biggest one will be Show Chairman for 2010.

I have been elected to serve on the Board of North Bay Field Trips (NBFT). Let me know if there is someplace you would like to go, and we will plan a trip. The NBFT meetings are a great place to find out about upcoming field trips, get to know rockhounds from different clubs who love field trips, and learn about places to collect that are not regularly visited by club field trips. You are welcome at all NBFT meetings and are encouraged to attend. These meetings always have a silent auction with great rock material and either serve a lunch or have a potluck. The next meeting is supposed to be hosted by the Peninsula Club in the spring. That means the meeting should be near to our club members and a great time for you to visit the meeting and learn more about field trips and the NBFT.

Randy Harris, President

Installation Dinner  
December 2nd at 7 PM  
at the Cabana Club

Anyone who would like to help with decorations for the installation dinner is asked to contact Marc Mullaney, (408) 691-1584 or geologistm@aol.com

People are asked to bring unscented candles and table centerpieces to decorate the tables.

The reservation form was in the September Breccia on page 8.

Make your reservations soon!

Deadline for reservations is the November meeting or when we reach our limit of 60 people

**COME ONE  
COME ALL!  
SILENT AUCTION  
at the November meeting.  
Bring ANYTHING that you would  
like to donate. Rocks and rock-  
related stuff is great, but any-  
thing else is welcome, too.  
Don't forget your wallet or  
checkbook.  
YOU'LL LOVE WHAT YOU FIND  
THERE.  
Questions?  
Call John Palmieri  
(408) 272-2369.**

# Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

## Mineraleers by Chuck Boblenz



Mineraleers will meet on November 11th at the home of Larry and Winnie Moore at 7:30 PM. The topic for the evening will be dendrites and plumes. Please RSVP to the Moore's at (650) 941-4966. Everyone is welcome to come to learn more about dendrites and plumes. Please bring any examples you might have of either.



## Jewelers by Marc Mullaney

The next Jewelers meeting will be on November 6th at Marc's home from 7pm to 10pm. We will be getting back to silver-work and working on soldering and bezel-making. Bring your tools, ideas, and silver. Questions and directions? Please email Marc at [geologistm@aol.com](mailto:geologistm@aol.com) or call him at (408) 691-1584.



## Smithies by Pat Speece

We met and made a new, more advanced project using a cab and making a frame for the dangling cab. Classes are limited to five students. If you are interested in learning how to use a torch, saw, set a cab, etc, email Kelly Van Vleck at [kellyv22000@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyv22000@yahoo.com), or call him at (408) 262-8187, or email Pat Speece at [pat.speece@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat.speece@sbcglobal.net) or call her at (408) 266-4327.

## Stringers by Pat Speece



We met and learned how to make a herringbone weave around a bead. This particular weave is appropriate for earrings, pendants, or bracelets. If you are interested in learning how to make jewelry using beads, call me at (408) 266-4327, or email me at [pat.speece@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat.speece@sbcglobal.net).

Classes are limited to five students, so you get a lot of individual attention.

Thanks, Pat



## Faceters

The Faceters study group will resume meeting in November. The group is for anyone who would like to learn the art of faceting a gemstone. Novices are welcomed and encouraged. Contact Max Casey at (408) 227-0526 for more information about this study group.

## Cutaways and Carvers



The Cutaways and Carvers study group will be meeting at John Eichhorn's home on Saturday, November 8th at 1:00 PM. Call John at (408) 749-0523 to RSVP and for more information about his address and project suggestions and ideas.



## Fossileers by Gail Matthews

Play day ruled! The next meeting, date to be determined, will be the discussion of plate tectonics with a display of fossil finds that showed these changing environments. Contact Gail Matthews at (650)-962-9960 or [glassrockwood@aol.com](mailto:glassrockwood@aol.com) with suggestions on meeting topics or fossil questions.

## Display Case Repair Day Thank You

Thank you to the following people for their help with repairing the club show display cases: Frank Mullaney, Ruth Bailey, Herb Vogel, Frank Monez, Chris Cherry, Art and Carol Pimentel, Randy and June Harris, and Marc Mullaney.

# Member Displays

by June Harris

Claire Ferguson has raffle tickets for the Barranca grinder/polisher that was on display. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Jane and George Yamashita displayed pictures from the Big Sur Jade Festival. They also displayed a piece of Poppy Jasper that they had dragon carved.

Linda Spencer and Donna Garland displayed samples from the latest Stringers class. The class earned how to do a herringbone weave around a bead.

Julaine Mullaney brought rocks and shells that she collected on the Big Sur Jade Festival bus trip.

November is the Silent Auction, so bring some goodies to sell on the tables. Don't forget your cash or checkbook because you might find something that you can't live without. See you in November

## Proposed Slate of 2009 SCVGMS Officers and Board of Directors

**President:** Gail Matthews

**Vice President:** Rick Kennedy

**Secretary:** Randy Harris

**Treasurer:** Frank Mullaney

**Editor:** Open

**Federation Director:** Ruth Bailey

**Alternate Federation Director:** Michael Paone

**Board of Directors:**

Vito Cangemi

Bill Spence

Marc Mullaney

Open

Open

**Historian:** Open

**Parliamentarian:** Dean and Karen Welder

**Elections and Silent Auction will be at the November General Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting. Make sure you are there to vote.**

**'09 CFMS**

**Show meeting**

**Date: Nov 18, 2008**

**Time: 7:30 PM**

**Place: Ruth Bailey's home**

All interested members are invited.

Call Frank Mullaney, (408) 266-1791, for more information and directions to Ruth's home.

# Sunshine by Ernestine Smith



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.

## DRC Report by Jane Yamashita

We had another donation during this past month, so we are planning our last sale of the season. We want to thank JT Fuller, Kelly Van Vleck, Pat and Daymond Speece, Max Casey, and Jane Yamashita for helping to pick up the donation in East San Jose. We also want to thank John Eichhorn for helping the Yamashitas and the Speeces get the rocks cleaned up, sorted, and ready for the sale. It will be held on November 22nd if weather permits. Come and see our new inventory and pick up that rock that you wish you got last time. The sale will be held from 9 to 12 at the Speece residence.

## October Meeting Program Reviewed

by Gail Matthews

Larry Schemel, USGS scientist emeritus, presented the October evening program on Mines, Minerals, and History in the San Juan Mountains near Silverton, Colorado. He used his unique experience of both working and playing in this area over the last two decades to provide an entertaining geologic overview including folklore stories and amazing self-collected specimens. We traveled to and then within the Silverton caldera looking at the origins of natural features and the effects of human activities, primarily at elevations above 9,000 feet.

Mining and exposing the copper, iron, manganese, and aluminum ore to oxygen and water oxidizes the metals and forms acids that dissolve other metals and creates precipitates which flow downstream in the runoff. The stage setting descriptions showed how the area is changing rapidly as several agencies work to preserve the mining history while restoring damaged landscapes and polluted streams.

Highlights included explanations of the "million dollar road," snow hazards, and the dangerous results of digging a 2,000 foot tunnel under a lake even when the goal is retrieving gorgeous rhodocrosite crystals. As evidenced by the discussion and substantiated by the rainbow hues in the photographs, the upper Animas River basin near Silverton is a "must see" location for everyone interested in mines and minerals. The exhibited specimens of rhodonite, galena, friedelite, pyrite, quartz, and chalcocopyrite, which are still collectible there, add further enticement for the typical rockhound.

# SCVGMS 2008 Calendar



**November 6** Jewelers meeting at Marc Mullaney's home from 7-10 PM.

**November 8** Cutaways and Carvers meeting at John Eichhorn's home at 1 PM.

**November 11** Mineraleers meeting at Larry Moore's home at 7:30 PM.

**November 18** CFMS Show meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

**November 22** DRC Rock Sale 9AM-noon at the Speece's home.

**November 25** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM. Elections and Silent Auction throughout the evening. Board meeting immediately following the general meeting.*

**December 2** Installation Dinner at the Cabana Club at 7:00 PM. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Reservations required.

**December 4** Joint Board meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

**December 9** Mineraleers meeting at Randy Harris' home at 7:30 PM.

## **2009 DATES**

**January 6, 2009** Mineraleers meeting at Frank Monez's home at 7:30 PM.

**January 20, 2009** Show meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

**January 27, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**January 29, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**February 10, 2009** Mineraleers meeting at Chuck Boblenz's home at 7:30 PM

**February 17, 2009** Show meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

**February 24, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**February 26, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**March 3, 2009** Mineraleers meeting at Bill Gissler's home at 7:30 PM.

**March 17, 2009** Show meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

**March 24, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**March 26, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**April 15-16, 2009** CFMS Show set-up at the Fairgrounds.

**April 17-19, 2009** CFMS/SCVGMS Show 9-5 Friday, 10-5 Saturday and Sunday

**April 28, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**April 30, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**May 1-3, 2009** Snyders Ranch Pow Wow

**May 26, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**May 28, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**June 23, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**June 25, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**July 28, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**July 30, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**August 25, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**August 27, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**September 22, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**September 24, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

**October 27, 2009** *General meeting at the Cabana Club at 7:45 PM.*

**October 29, 2009** Board meeting at 7:30 PM location TBD

## **Big Sur Jade Festival Bus trip report**

by Jane Yamashita

The Jade Festival field trip was a great success. Everyone seemed to have a good time. The Yamashitas passed out snacks and the best donuts money can buy. The club provided the snacks and drinks and most of the cost of the bus. The Festival was in full swing even though the fire season has been pretty devastating in that area. The Big Sur area is still gorgeous. Since it was the first time to the festival for many of the passengers, the scenery alone was well worth it. We arrived at the Festival at about 10 and stayed for approx. three hours, and then most of us went on to Willow Creek beach area. We had a remarkable bus driver that got us right down to the beach, and we all enjoyed looking for some jade and whatever else caught our eye. We then went back to the festival and picked up our other passengers and headed home. On the way home, we stopped at the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum. We arrived home tired and hungry at about 6pm. We look forward to more trips like this.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU  
TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR  
THEIR HELP AT THE  
2009 SCHOLARSHIP BOOTH  
AND KIDS AREA "PLAY DAY."**

**CHRIS CHERRY, MICHAEL PAONE, NANCY REI-  
NEKING, TINY AND DONNA GARLAND, LINDA  
SPENCER, DAVID MARSHALL, BILL SIMPSON, JU-  
LAINE AND FRANK MULLANEY, JUNE HARRIS,  
MARC AND ANNIE MULLANEY, CHUCK BOBLENZ,  
FRANK MONEZ, MARTIN KRAMER, JOHN EICH-  
HORN, GAIL MATTHEWS, ART AND CAROL  
PIMENTEL, AND CLAIRE FERGUSON.**

# 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](http://www.cfmsinc.org)



**November 7, 8, 9 2007, Eureka, CA**, Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society, Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 3750 Harris, Hours: Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, Toni Tyson (707) 725-2890, Email: [BLUII911@msn.com](mailto:BLUII911@msn.com)

**November 8-9 2007, Lancaster, CA**, Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society, Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14, Hours: 9 - 5 both days, Susan Chaisin-Walblom (661) 943-1861, Email: [SLChaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:SLChaisson@yahoo.com), Website: [pams@antelecom.net](http://pams@antelecom.net)

**November 8 - 9 2008, Yuba City, CA**, Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society, "Festival of Gems", Grace Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Avenue, Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4, Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752, Inez Berg (530) 633-4612

**November 22-23 2008, Oxnard, CA**, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Miriam Tetrault (805) 642-5779, E-mail: [miriamtetrault@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamtetrault@hotmail.com), Website: [www.OGMS.net](http://www.OGMS.net)

**November 22-23 2008, Livermore, CA**, Livermore Valley Lithophiles G & M Club, The BARN, 3131 Pacific Ave. (East of Livermore Ave.), Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Elizabeth Myers (408) 897-3060, Website: [www.lithophiles.org](http://www.lithophiles.org)

**December 6-7 2008, Barstow, CA**, Mojave Gem & Mineral Society, Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Hours: 10-5 Both Days, Gene Haines (760) 256-0595, E-mail: [email@mdgms.org](mailto:email@mdgms.org), Website: [www.mdgms.org](http://www.mdgms.org)

## 2009 CFMS Show Calendar

**January 17-18 2009, Exeter, CA**, Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Exter Memorial Bldg., 420 N Kaweah, Exter, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Margaret Buchmann (599) 739-0401, Email: [mab@mindinfo.com](mailto:mab@mindinfo.com), Webpage: [tulegem.org](http://tulegem.org)

**February 13-22, 2009, Indio, CA**, San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Gem amp; Mineral Building Bldg #1, 46-350 Arabia Street, Hours: 10 am - 10 pm, Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674, Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net),

**February 27 - March 8 2009, Imperial, CA**, Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., Gem and Mineral Building on Fairgrounds, Hours: Fro., Sat. & Sun. Noon - 10, Mon. thru Thur. 4pm - 10pm, Jim Strain (760) 356-2361

**March 6, 7 & 8 2009, Hayward, CA**, Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd., Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10-5, Larry Ham (510) 887-9007, E-mail: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org), Website: <http://www.mgscv.org>

**March 7 - 8 2009, Ventura, CA**, Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary & Fossil Show, Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

**March 13, 14, 15 2009, Stoddard Wells, CA**, Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club, 33rd Annual Tailgate, Held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley, Hours: 10-5 Daily, Tailgate Map (Google): N34.670650 W117.108983, (760) 243-2330, Website: [www.vvgms.org](http://www.vvgms.org)

**March 14-15 2009, Turlock, CA**, Mother Lode Mineral Society, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock, Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun 10-5, Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494, Email: [terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com), Website: [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com),

**March 14-15 2008, Spreckels, CA**, Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club, Veteran's Memorial Hall, 5th & Liano Streets, Hours: 10-5 daily, Teri Beck (831) 679-2896, Email: [taiani@cencentric.net](mailto:taiani@cencentric.net), Website: [salinasrockandgem.com](http://salinasrockandgem.com)

**March 28 - 29 2009, Torrance, CA**, South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society, Torrance Recreational Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Roger Mills (310) 377-6226, Email: [roger\\_mills@acm.org](mailto:roger_mills@acm.org), Website: <http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap/>

**March 28-29, 2009: Angels Camp, CA**, Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Calaveras Frog Town USA Fairgrounds, Highway 49 in Angels Camp, Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4, Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579, Website: [Calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://Calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**March 28-29 2009: Roseville, CA**, Roseville Rock Rollers, Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd., Roseville, Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4, Gloria Marie (530) 367-2262, Email: [Gloria.Marie@Conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Gloria.Marie@Conservation.ca.gov), Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

**April 3-5 2009, Bakersfield, CA**, San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society, Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P. Street - Corner S. P & Belle Terrace, Hours: 9-5 Daily, Contact: Lew Helfrich (661) 323-2663 / cell (661) 378-4450, Email: [lewsrocks@bak.rr.com](mailto:lewsrocks@bak.rr.com)

**April 17, 18, & 19 2009, San Jose, CA**, 54th Annual CFMS Show, Nature's Showcase, hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 334 Tully Road, San Jose, Hours: 10-5 Daily, Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422, Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org), Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**May 30 -31 2009, Glendora, CA**, Glendora Gems, 859 E. Sierra Madre Ave. Glendora, Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4, bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638, Email: [Ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell2@aol.com)

**June 5-7 2009, Woodland Hills, CA**, Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society, Pierce College, Pierce College - Victory & Mason, Hours: 10-5 Daily, Contact: Gary Levitt, Show Chair (818) 993-3802, Email: [Show@Rockatomics.org](mailto:Show@Rockatomics.org), Website: [www.Rockatomics.org](http://www.Rockatomics.org)

**November 7-8, 2009, Lancaster, CA**, Palmdale Gem and Mineral Society, Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14, Hours: 9 - 5 both days, Susan Chaisin-Walblom (661) 943-1861, Email: [SLChaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:SLChaisson@yahoo.com), Website: [palmdalegems.org](http://palmdalegems.org)

## Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

Contact Dean Welder, at email [fieldtrips@scvgms.org](mailto:fieldtrips@scvgms.org). Email is the best way to contact him. If you can not email, then call him for information about the following field trips. His phone number is located in our club directory. Many of these trips are sponsored by clubs other than SCVGMS, so contact Dean who will make the appropriate introductions for SCVGMS members to be able to attend.

November 26-29, Boron, CA, for palm wood, agate petrified wood, banded onyx, and verdi antique.

## **SAFETY** by Chuck McKie

via CFMS Newsletter, October 2008

It has been quite a while since we had any shop safety. The following is from chapter two of the AFMS Safety Manual.

The following safety rules, if followed, will lessen the risk of possible harm or injury. Protect your eyes when chipping or grinding rocks. **WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES.**

Run your grinding wheels no faster than the speed recommended by the manufacturer. Do not let your {Ceramic/stone} wheel become water logged. Keep it running until all water has been thrown out; otherwise, it will cause a heavy spot and make your wheel out of balance. Keep your wheel true. It will wear longer and there will be less chance of its parting while in use.

Keep all belt pulleys and belts covered. It may save a finger. Use dop sticks whenever possible. It may save a badly cut finger. A word of warning to those individuals who use dry sanding of their cabochons: Silicosis is a serious disease which is caused by the inhalation of fine silica dust. Use a dust mask or suction blower, or change to wet sanding. Silicosis cannot be cured!

Be careful with your alcohol lamp. It can cause a fire. Keep all containers properly labeled. Putting polishing powders in empty baking powder cans, for instance, without a proper label, can be dangerous. (If you put the polishing powder in an empty baking powder can, your wife could use it with disastrous results).

The use of Oxalic Acid, when properly used, greatly facilitates the polishing of agates. Oxalic Acid is caustic to the skin, as well as a frank poison, if accidentally ingested or inhaled. Also, getting some in the eyes from the spray from the polishing wheels, may cause a burn of the cornea, resulting in impaired eyesight. When using this acid, proper precautions must be taken.

It is advisable to apply the polish to the wheel with a brush. Wear protective glasses. It may be advisable, under certain circumstances, to wear protective gloves. Immediately wash any contact areas of the skin with soap and water. Medical attention may be advisable.

Sulfuric Acid and Nitric Acid are sometimes mixed with polishing compounds when faceting sapphire. They are also used in the polishing of sapphire cabochons on lead laps.

These acids are severe caustics and will cause severe burns if they come in contact with the skin or eyes. In using the techniques above, one must use the utmost precautions. Any contaminated areas must immediately be washed

with soap and water. If any gets in the eyes, thoroughly irrigate with water and seek medical attention. The application of a baking soda pack is often advisable or the sponging with a solution of baking soda in water to the burned area.

The polishing compounds we use today are, as a rule, relatively non-toxic, except to some individual. The use of detergents added to the polishing powders could cause dermatitis of the hands. This can be eliminated if the offending substance is eliminated.

The use of Epoxy Resins is very irritating to the skin, and severe cases of dermatitis have resulted. This can easily be prevented by not getting the hands in actual contact with the resins. Acetone will remove this, if you should get some resin on the skin. The various cutting oils used in the diamond saws are primary irritants to the skin, and will, in many individuals, produce dermatitis. Also, the fire hazard, in the use of certain cutting oils, must be realized and proper precautions taken. **WARNING TO SILVER-SOLDERING ENTHUSIASTS:** Silver brazing alloy, frequently called "silver solder," is an extremely valuable industrial material. It is used for joining metals and alloys such as silver, copper, brass, bronze, stainless steel, carbon steel and dissimilar metal combinations where it is necessary to perform the joining of these metals at low temperatures. Fumes generated during brazing can be a serious hazard. Brazing fluxes generate fluoride fumes when heated.

Cadmium in silver brazing alloys vaporizes when overheated and produces cadmium oxide, a highly toxic substance. If cadmium oxide fumes are inhaled into the respiratory tract, they can cause pulmonary distress, shortness of breath, and in cases of severe exposure, may cause death.

Silver brazing filler metals containing cadmium are: BAg-1, GAg-1a and BAg-2 and BAg3. Since the boiling point of Cadmium is 1412 degrees F., brazing can be carried on safely using BAg-1 and BAg-1a classes of filler metal at temperatures below 1400 degrees F. BAg-2 and BAg-3 have recommended brazing temperatures of 1295 - 1550 degrees F. and 1270 to 1500 degrees F. respectively. Brazing can be carried out - safely - using temperatures below 1400 degrees F. Since temperatures in the upper portion of these ranges can be reached, it is important to provide adequate local exhaust ventilation or, where this is not possible, individual air-supplied respirators. (This article taken from, "Working with Silver Solder", Public Health Service Publication No. 1518, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.)

*(Continued on page 14)*



## ROCKS IN A BOX CHALLENGE

by Joe Barreca

via AFMS Newsletter, September 2008

The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club of Kettle Falls, Washington is ready. We have our rocks together! Well alright, not all of our rocks, but a pretty good sample. Our collection includes crystals, metals, fossils, opal, real gold and more. Many of our samples are fluorescent under UV light. All of them are good examples of what you can expect to find in our area, Northeast Washington.

Our collection comes with its own guide book, a collection of stories with maps and GPS positions for the rocks in this box. The box itself is a fairly standard storage box for tied flies that we bought at WalMart. It is 11" x 7" x 1.75" and has 18 compartments.

So the challenge is: "We want to trade these boxes for similar collections of sample rocks that other clubs find on their field trips." It would be ideal if other clubs could provide a guide such as ours. But we will settle for a key to what is in the collection that includes the name of the mineral, a location where it can be found, (GPS coordinates if possible), chemical formulas where important, notes about its properties, value, abundance, and kudos to those who contributed samples. We can supply boxes if helpful.

Through this exchange we hope to build a collection of collections. It will be exciting to see what other clubs are finding, and especially nice in this era of high fuel costs to not be burning too much gas in the process. Of course this kind of thing inevitably leads to field trips, visits, contests, displays at rock shows, etc. So we can't promise that this idea will stop global warming. We can promise that it will be fun.

If your club is up to the challenge, contact

Joe Barreca

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

2109 Hwy 25 South

Kettle Falls, WA 99141

(509) 738-6155

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## HAVING FUN – JUNIOR ACTIVITIES UPDATING THE "KIDS CORNER" OF OUR WEBSITE

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

via AFMS newsletter, October 2008

With the terrific assistance of AFMS Webmaster Marty Hart (thank you, Marty!), earlier this year I updated portions of the Kids Corner section of our web site. We've replaced the old FRA badge manual with the new one (along with 4-color images of all the badges), a new application form, new overviews of the badge program and how to use it, suggestions on starting a youth group, new lists of affiliated clubs, and an "Honor Roll" listing all kids who have earned their "Rockhound" badge by completing requirements for 6 or more of the activity badges.

We need to continue updating Kids Corner, and to do so, I'd like to solicit your help. For instance, some articles appear to have come from regional newsletters that are now over a decade old and some listings of resources, such as recommended books or activities, apparently are no longer available. Please set aside 30 minutes or so to look through the Kids Corner tabs on our website ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)), and send me your thoughts on what ought to be eliminated or replaced as outdated to help streamline what resides on the site. I also welcome new ideas about info to add to the site, including web links to other kids resources you may know about. So, again, please take some time to surf the Kids Corner, and contact me with your thoughts (805-659-3577, [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com)).

By the way, remember last month's "50 State Challenge"? Well, I'm pleased to report that Idaho and Alaska have risen to the challenge! I received phone call from Ed Moser of the Idaho Gem Club, asking for program details for possible use in two local clubs, and from Tom Cooper, asking how to sign up a junior from the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to start earning AFMS Future Rockhounds of America merit badges. Welcome IGC and CGMS! That makes just 20 states I'm waiting to hear from. Come on, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming! Ring my phone and join the fun!

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## Turritella Shells

by Ed Wengerd

via Gem Cutters News, Nov. 05

Twenty to thirty million years ago, small turritella shells were laid down on an ancient sea floor at the foot of the Wind River Range in what is now Wyoming. These tiny spiral shells then solidified to form a compact mass pressed into very thin slabs. When sliced, the black jasper-like matrix highlights the unique beauty of these agatized fossils. If you want to hunt for Turritella agates, you'll have to hike the country roads and trails around Superior and Wamsutter, Wyoming, as the gems are found nowhere else in the world.

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## Cabbing Hint:

Transparent stones should be polished on both the front and back. Otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks.

via The Tektite, 4/04; via San Diego Lapidary Society, 9/03; via the Rock Bag.

## Word of Caution

by John Wright,  
RPG, Conservation and Legislation Chair  
via AFMS newsletter, November, 2008

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, to the best of my knowledge has cleared all committees, and the next logical step would be to schedule it for a vote by the House of Representatives, but with the current turmoil in Congress caused by the failures on Wall Street, I can't get through to my contact to find out the exact status of this particular legislation. My personal opinion is that it has been placed on a back burner and action on it will be delayed for the time being. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, but it does give us another small window of opportunity to express our opposition. With the up-roar among the citizens caused by the proposed bail-out plans for Wall Street and the up-coming elections, constituents have really gotten the undivided attention of representatives, and if you have not written or petitioned yours to express opposition to HR554, you now have a short but golden opportunity to let your sentiments be known.

While my information has been very limited, I was very pleased to find out that quite a few of our members have talked to their representatives or have written them a letter in opposition to the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. I also know that a number of our clubs have submitted petitions opposing this legislation. While these efforts are really commendable, the downside is that these individuals and clubs represent only a very small percentage of our membership. If we want to stop or have this legislation significantly modified in our favor, it is going to require a lot more participation. We have to let our representatives know what our desires are if we want them to act in our favor.

I am serving as president of my club again and for several months I have encouraged our members to contact or write a letter to our Representative regarding HR554. As you might expect my efforts were basically ignored. Finally, I decided to write a petition that our members could sign and a sample letter that they could use as a guide to write their own. Quite a few of our members signed the petition and several of the ones that did not sign took copies of the sample letter to use as a guide in writing their own. I regret that I waited so long to do this and that all of our members did not participate, but at least we have taken a positive step. I would like to challenge other club presidents to take similar action to get more of our members and respective clubs involved.

I am getting very little feedback about the issues I am addressing in my articles. I do occasionally see some of them reprinted in the exchange bulletins we receive from other clubs. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please let me know. I would very much like to know about any conservation and legislative matters in your particular areas and also what actions your club might be taking in national issues like the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. My e-mail address is <osjw@datasync.com>.

## Fairgrounds development update

by Chris Cherry

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors held a community outreach workshop on Wednesday, October 22, 2009. An overflow audience attended the 6:30pm meeting. Many of those in attendance had been recruited by a grassroots group called Friends of the Fairgrounds, or FOF, to speak before the Board. The focus of this group is to halt negotiations between the county, city, and the chosen developer. They propose the Board designate a citizens' task force to develop a vision of the fairgrounds based on community needs and usage. It is important to mention, the predominant voices of the FOF are 'for profit' business owners currently using public land to conduct their businesses. The basis of their argument for continued public land use is that their patrons or customers are under served youth and families from the community.

Approximately seventy-five speakers were allotted two minutes each to present their views and opinions to the Board regarding future use of the fairgrounds. Most of those who spoke had been given statements written by the FOF to read. The Fairgrounds Response Committee (FRC), our internal focus committee, attended the workshop and spoke on behalf of SCVGMS. As a non-profit organization, with a history of more than forty-five years hosting annual shows at the fairgrounds venue, we have a major stake in the final vision for development of this facility. The FRC is prepared to continue discussions with county officials following elections on November 4, 2008. Watch for updates regarding future workshops as they are announced by the county.

## Show Report

by Frank Mullaney

I would like to thank everyone who showed up on October 4th and helped repair the show display cases and get them ready for CFMS show in April. We had a successful "Play Day" on Saturday, October 25th. Rock bags for the Kids Area were filled. Necklaces, magnets, and spiders were made; fossils were packed; memory wire bead kits were assembled for the scholarship booth. There is still a lot to do, and we will continue to have "play days" to work on more projects. If you have anything that you would like to include at a play day, see me.

Please bring your vehicle to the November meeting so we can measure the back window to put a sign on for advertising. This is a good, cheap way of advertising. Please help us think of various ways we can advertise the show. If you have not volunteered to help at the show, please see me.

We have a full size skeleton of a cave bear being brought by Applegate Lapidary along with many other fossils. We will be having two talks per day by a fossil expert who specializes in children's programs. He is very interesting and informative. The gold panning group from the bay area will be demonstrating gold panning. If you have any ideas for speakers, demonstrators, or displays please contact me immediately, so we can work to arrange for them to be included.

## Slate Carving—A Unique Hobby

by Helen K. Boyer

via Gem Rock, 2003; via Snoopy Gems, 10/04

The slate found locally in streams is too soft; it shatters. Good, hard slate is found in salvage yards where they have reclaimed roofing. Slate blackboards from old schools is best but now very rare.

**TOOLS:** If you have a place “to work out of doors” in good weather, wearing a mask and safety goggles, it is ok to use a small power tool. But if you work indoors, never use a drill. The whole house will get a coating of the oily dust. Wood carvers’ flat chisels are fine. Always wear a mask. The dust is bad for your lungs. Lay the slate on a towel to catch the dust you brush off your work. You do not have to be an artist.

Choose a simple subject. Trace the major lines from the photo and transfer to the stone, with a dart or stylus, scratch the lines into the slate, otherwise the dust will erase the drawing as you work. Repeatedly scratch the out-lines deeper and with slate chisels, bevel a sloping area down to it. Use a damp rag to clear the dust onto the towel. Always keep hands back of the tool. A slip can make a bad gash. What you are doing is creating the illusion of three dimensions. It is called “Bas-Relief” or “Low-Relief”. Look at the sculptured figures on coins to get the idea. When done, the slate will have a varied, dull, gray look. A couple of coats of wax (like Johnson’s) will buff it up to a slight shine and more uniform look.

## Polishing Curved Surfaces

by Rudy Appleby

via WAMS; via Shop Notes and News, 1/01; via Pegmatite, 11/02; via The Tumbler, 10/04.

Here is a way to polish curved surfaces on a carving with a flex shaft tool. Visit your auto supply store and purchase a real leather chamois, or use any reasonably thin, clean, uncontaminated leather you have around.

Select a felt, rubber, or resin tip on a mandrel, lay the tip on the leather, cut enough leather to cover the tip plus up the shank of the mandrel about 1/2 inch. Wrap the leather about the tip tightly, gathering the overlap uniformly at the shank. Secure the leather with a tie. I use a rubber band, pulling and looping it over the tip repeatedly until tight. Trim off the excess leather past the secured point on the shank.

You now have a leather “micro” polisher. Dip the tip in water to get it wet, then dip in optical grade cerium oxide or whatever polish you prefer. Use the tool at low speed and polish as you would on the “big buff”, i.e. keep the tool damp and charged.

For safety purposes, always wear safety glasses. Make sure the leather is securely fastened at the shank by checking to see if you can pull it off in between charges of polish. Check to make sure you aren’t burning through the leather.

## How to Select that Cab from that Slab

by Alene Innes

via Far West Lapidary and Gem; via Rock Chip Reporter, 11/04, via Hy Grader, 11/04; via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 5/05, via The Tumbler, 9/06

We now have several members that have learned how to cut that cab, and now want to know how to select it. I use a template. A template is made of plastic or metal with squares, rounds, ovals, or other shapes cut out, leaving the center of the hole open so that you can see through it. I find that by using a template as a frame and moving it all over the slab, slowly, I can usually find one picture that appeals to me more so than some other selections. Sometimes the cut I have selected ruins another good picture, so then it becomes choosing one of the two, whichever one appeals to me more than the other. And, at times, I can find only one picture in a whole slab, that I think is worth going after. At these times, I will waste the whole slab for just one outstanding picture. I use metal templates because they do not wear or warp as the plastic ones do. I use a brass or aluminum marking pencil to outline the “frame” I want to cab. These “pencils” can be made from heavy aluminum or brass wire, or purchased. With expertise, perhaps I wouldn’t place so much pressure on the plastic templates while outlining the desired picture, but eventually the plastic will wear. I use all the shapes, squares, rounds ovals, and marquise shapes to search for the scene in the slab. This takes some time, but to get the best, you have to search for it. Usually one can get several cabs from one slab; however, sometimes one picture is worth the price of the whole slab. Normally though, there are several good selections in one single slab and it becomes a matter of taste in selecting the “best” one. Mark it with a #1, and the other scenes in order of preference.

The second thing to remember in choosing your slab is to wet it and watch how it dries. If it dries in “spotty spots”, one spot drying faster than another or other spots, remember that these “spots” are too porous to take a polish. The “spotty” spot will either have minute holes or is soft and will continue to undercut and will never take a polish. Undercutting means that it will continue to look dull as you continue to grind it and will never take an even smooth surface.

The last thing to remember is to take it easy in the grinding stage. Experience will show you how light a touch it takes to grind the stone, whether it is grit or diamond, to remove the unwanted material to get a uniform surface on your cab before continuing on to the next step. This will prolong the life of your grinding stones.

Hope this helps, and happy cab hunting.

## Sphere-making Tips

by Dan Imel

via Rock Collector, 4/06, via Shin Skinner News, 5/06

**First Tip:** From a recent trip to another show, I picked up the following tip: One of their club members had told a member to use a ball chain in a loop long enough to reach into the cup of slurry below with a little sitting on the bottom.

It sits on the sphere at the front of one of the cups. As the cups rotate, so does the chain. It drags the slurry back up to the cups. Seemed to work really well but I suspected you have to wait until you have a slurry actually started. This has an advantage over machines with an automatic grit feed because it uses the grit over, not so much waste.

**Second Tip:** They had accidentally allowed grit to run back along the motor shaft and ruined a motor when it got into the gears. I was thinking about the problem and came up with the following solution. I love laundry detergent bottles, especially the 300 ounce size because they have a fairly large flat area you can use. Either by hand with a utility knife or using a hole saw like you'd use to install a door lock (it can be much smaller), cut three circles of plastic from the detergent bottle, one for each shaft on a three motor sphere machine, with a center hole slightly smaller than the shaft on the motors.

Remove the cups on the sphere machine. Take an O-ring that's tight on the shaft and push it on ahead of the plastic washer you've made. Leave a slight gap in front of the motor.

Place the washer on, then another o-ring to lock it in place and help seal things. No glue necessary. If the shaft is inclined so the grit runs down the shaft, the washer and o-rings will block it from getting to the motor, much like a collar on a bird feeder helps stop squirrels from climbing up to the food. The spin of the motor will prevent the grit from getting back to the shaft on the other side of the washer. This solution shouldn't affect the cooling of the motor either and, since the washer spins with the shaft, it shouldn't wear at all. The detergent bottle plastic doesn't readily degrade with use and is very durable. If you use a hole saw to cut your washers, use a block of wood as a backer for the saw to cut through to.

## Flint Knapping Basics

by Mac Ellis

(7th place 2003 AFMS Original Adult Article)

from the Stone Chipper, 2/02, via SCFMS Newsletter, 1&2/04

This is not intended to be a technical article, although it may be much more than you care to know about flint knapping. Perhaps the term flint knapping should be shortened to knapping since materials other than flint have been used in making stone tools; for example agate, petrified wood, jasper, etc. Some of the material was traded over long distances because of its excellent working qualities.

There are two primary methods of knapping: percussion and pressure flaking. Percussion involves striking the edge of the working piece with a hammer stone, antler, or in the case of many modern-day knappers, a copper billet. The purpose is to thin the piece. A thinner stone will penetrate an animal's hide more easily, and the piece can be sharpened better. Pressure flaking is the use of a tool, antler, copper rod, or similar to bring pressure on the edge of the piece being worked, resulting in smaller flakes being removed. This method is primarily used to straighten the edge of the piece or to sharpen it.

The best knapping materials all have one thing in common—when struck as in percussion, they fracture conchoidally, meaning the fractured surface is curved and (hopefully) smooth. Some material such as obsidian is much easier to work because it fractures more readily. This produces some very sharp edges, so be careful in handling this type of material.

Prehistoric knappers learned to treat some stones by heating them. Proper heat treatment will often give the material a very smooth, glossy surface and makes the stone easier to flake. Some color change may also occur. Properly heating the material may produce workable material from material that was not well suited for knapping before the heating process.

Most knapping material have amorphous or cryocrystalline structures. The minerals from which they are formed (mostly silica), either have not formed crystals (amorphous, like opal or glass), or have formed into networks of microscopic crystals, usually not visible to the naked eye (like flint or chert). Rocks such as granite and jade are (mostly) not knappable. Obviously, materials that are flawed (those with cracks, etc.) are not suitable for knapping unless the flaws can be removed beforehand.

Safety is a constant consideration. Your eyes are vulnerable to pieces of flying stone which is traveling at a high rate of speed. So, eye protection is a must! Some knappers do not like to wear gloves. Gloves may not prevent all cuts, but they will reduce the severity of some and eliminate others. When possible, knap outside to reduce the level of dust you breathe, or use an air circulation system to blow the dust away from you. Just be aware of the potential problems and always use proper safety procedures.

Should you decide to take up flint knapping, be prepared to spend a year or more learning how to use the tools and to acquire the techniques necessary to produce a nice point. Try to locate an experienced knapper to help you before you develop too many bad habits.

If your intent is to quickly make an arrowhead and promptly go out hunting, be sure to include in your plans a stop at McDonald's on the way back home. Happy Knapping.

## Flat Lapping Tips from Ed Reiber

via CFMS newsletter 6/03

My machine is a 20-inch rotary cast iron lap. I bond slab as thin as 0.030-inch to plywood using a mixture that is half beeswax and half paraffin wax. Then, for a 5-inch diameter slab, I use a minimum of a 3 lb. weight glued to the plywood.

In the preparation phase, to remove saw cuts and bumps from the slab, do not use 80 or 100 grit; start with 220. I usually spend 4 hours each with 220, 400, and 600 SiC grit, cleaning up carefully in between each step. I spend 8 hours on polishing and have found that tin oxide is the best for lapping. Put some in a bottle and shake it up before applying. I use carpet for polishing, securing it to the lap with contact cement and hitting it with a mallet.

When it comes time to remove the slab from the plywood, put it in the sun or under a 250-watt bulb. The heat will soften the wax and the slab can be removed.

To handle small slabs or split nodules, make a cylinder from 0.010-inch thick aluminum sheet, set it on a smooth surface, set agates face down in the bottom, add lead weight, add plaster, and let harden. After the plaster column is wet, remove the aluminum and cut away a bit of the plaster around the agate faces (so it wouldn't cause drag on the lap). Put inner tube around the plaster column and secure with rubber bands, then add a bumper ring.

## “Enhydros” Terminology that's all wet

by Julian C. Gray

from the Gem and Mineral Journal, 6/04, via The Rock, 5/04

Mineral dealers at rock shows will occasionally offer specimens labeled enhydros for sale. What they are selling are typically quartz crystals with liquid inclusions. Within the liquid is a tiny bubble, and if you tip the crystal back and forth the bubble will move. The dealers will often circle the bubble, and if you cannot find the bubble, the dealer will spend a lot of time searching with you. Most require that you use a magnifier. So what are these things?

First of all, they are fluid inclusions, not enhydros, and they are also much more common than you might imagine. I will define both, but here is how fluid inclusions form. Minerals grow by adding elements to the surfaces, edges, and corners. Quartz crystals grow in many environments, but they commonly form by growth out of a hydro thermal solution—hot ground water containing dissolved silica. Growth rates and mechanisms are complex subjects, and some scientists spend years on this single area of research. It is enough for our purposes here to know that different parts of a single crystal or crystal face can grow at different rates. When this happens, microscopic pits develop in the crystal faces. They become vessels for our bubble bearing liquid. Think of the hopper-shaped halite of copper crystals that you've seen or those deep cavities on the faces of some Brazilian quartz. As the crystal grows larger, the next layer or several layers of crystal growth can cover these pits, trapping the liquid within the crystal in the

process. Now the fun begins!

When a liquid is heated it expands; when it cools, it contracts. Solids like quartz also expand and contract, but to a much smaller rate. An everyday example of expanding and contracting liquids is the liquid in a glass thermometer. The glass in the thermometer also expands and contracts, just not nearly as much as the mercury of colored alcohol in the tube. When our quartz crystal is finished crystallizing, it cools down (and so does the liquid in the inclusion). The cooling liquid contracts and may pull away from the sides of its quartz container forming a vapor bubble.

Scientists call these trapped liquids and their bubbles fluid inclusions. They are quite common and very fascinating. The white color of milky quartz is due to thousands or perhaps millions of microscopic fluid inclusions. Gemologists see inclusions when they look at certain gemstones (emerald is a good example) with a microscope. The liquid is not always water. A common fluid in ore forming processes is salty water. Hot water can dissolve a lot more salt than cold water and inclusions trap this hot salt water. When the salt water cools and contracts, it too forms a bubble. But another interesting thing happens; because the water has cooled down it can no longer hold as much salt as it did when it was hot. The salt begins to crystallize out as a halite crystal within the fluid, which in turn is trapped in the quartz crystal. Imagine peering into a microscope and seeing an inclusion with a tiny vapor bubble and microscopic halite crystals.

Enhydros are scientific curiosities; fluid inclusions are a scientific research tool. It's sort of like the fluid equivalent of the difference between a rock and a mineral. It is incorrect to label a mineral with a fluid inclusion as enhydros. A label calling attention to the fact that a mineral bears fluid inclusions is correct and should even increase the value of a specimen because of the scientific value and unique circumstances under which these are formed. Now get busy changing those labels!

Enhydros: References:

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### **Ed Hansen's Time Tested Shop Tips Storing your silver stock:**

via The Tektite, 4/04; from the Pegmatite, 3/04

You can also use these accordion folios to organize your silver stock (sheet, wire, etc.) and cut down on scratches. However, another way to organize your silver stock is to get sheet protectors that fit into a 3-ring binder. These individual plastic pockets are designed to protect a sheet of paper. You can put a single piece of silver stock in each sleeve and keep them all in a 3-ring binder. When you need to browse through your silver stock, you can flip from page to page and see exactly what you've got. Plus the plastic sheets keep the pieces of silver from scratching each other.

### **Polishing Jade**

via The Tektite, 4/04; from the Pegmatite, 2/04

Heat it up! Use polish on leather. Hold the stone with your fingers so you know it's not getting too hot.

### **Cutting slabs:**

via The Tektite, 4/04; from the Pegmatite, 2/04

Cut thin chucks of rough on the bias (diagonally) to yield larger slabs.

### *(Continued from page 8)* **Safety Article**

Do not overload electrical outlets. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician.

Keep switches and motors in a dry place where the water from the grinding will not splash on them.

Be sure to have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock -- not you! Standing on a rubber mat will give some protection. Electric shocks can cause death!

Suspicious wires lying on the floor or ground should be avoided -- at home or on field trips. They may be harmless, but if they are not, beware!

When a person suffers electric shock, it is important to use a stick or other such wooden object to separate him from the source before beginning resuscitation.

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**SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
October 28<sup>th</sup> , 2008**

President Randy Harris called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. Minutes were approved as printed in the Breccia. The next board meeting will be at the home of Ruth Bailey, Oct 30th, 7:30 pm. Everyone enjoyed a pot luck dinner from 6:30 to the start of the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you note to Michael Paone, 2 AFMS newsletters, 2 exchange bulletins, Workplace Network coupons.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Bill Simpson, Yvonne Go, and Aurora McDowell were presented with their membership packages and welcomed to the club.

**HOSPITALITY:** There were 57 members and 2 guests in attendance tonight.

**SUNSHINE:** Kelly Van Vleck had surgery.

**DONATION RECEIVING COMMITTEE:** A rock sale will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Speece home.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE:** See report in the Breccia.

**FAIRGROUND COMMITTEE:** The group attended the County Supervisors meeting on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, see details in the Breccia.

**STUDY GROUPS:** See details in the Breccia for all groups .Contact the group leader for info and time.

Faceteers will be on a break from July until October.

Cutaways will be on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Fossileers will meet at the next demo day.

Jewelry group will meet at the home of Mark Mullaney.

**FEDERATION:** Ruth Bailey will attend the Visalia meeting.

**PLAC:** See Frank's message in the Breccia.

**SHOW:** There are still jobs open for the CFMS show.

**MEMBER DISPLAY:** See Breccia.

**FIELD TRIPS:** See details in the Breccia. E-mail Dean Welder for any info. Dean attended the NBFT meeting.

**PROGRAM:** Slide show and lecture on the Geology, Mineralogy, and Chemistry of the San Juan mountains and Silverton, Colorado area, presented by Larry Schemel of the USGS office in Menlo Park, Calif.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, John Eichhorn, Secretary

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Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 30th, 2008

President Randy Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Ruth Bailey. All board members were present except Rick Kennedy, Frank Monez, and R. K. Owen. Guest was Gail Matthews. M/S/P to approve the September board minutes.

**Correspondence:** Letters from: 2 IRS notices, 2 McDaniel's Insurance notices, Royal Coach Bus notice, and a Dodge and Cox Fund letter.

**New Members:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** M/s/p to approve the bills. M/s/p to drop delinquent dues members. Frank Mullaney to e-mail list to board members.

**Committee Reports:**

Federation: Ruth Bailey will attend the Visalia meeting. m/s/p to have Ruth vote for the dues increase.

Show: show letters will be handed out at the Federation meeting.

DRC: Sale on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Speece's house.

**Unfinished Business:**

Marc Mullaney will do the installation dinner decorations. The Marines have been invited to the dinner.

Nominating Committee: Positions are still open for next year.

Show: A date needs to be set for fixing the large display cases. .The trailer wheels need to be measured and have covers made. Case glass frames need to be fixed. Case top light covers need to be fixed.

**New Business:**

Discussion on the club dues. Mark Mullaney will get the member cost study.

M/s/p to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, John Eichhorn , Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Treasurer's Report  
October 28, 2008

Beginning Balance: \$8,425.07

Receipts

Big Sur Jade Festival Bus Trip	\$ 40.00
2009 CFMS Show Donation from California Water Service	\$ 500.00
Dues	\$ 50.00
2009 Show Kids Area Deposit	\$ 412.50
2008 Installation Dinner	\$ 350.00
Interest earned	<u>\$ 5.13</u>
Total Receipts	\$1,357.63

Disbursements

Case Repairs	\$ 76.06
Phone Bill	\$ 22.50
Case Repairs	\$ 69.38
Prize Ball Machine for Scholarship Booth	\$ 331.95
Molds for Fossils for Scholarship Booth	\$ 276.33
Moving Trailers	\$ 50.00
Moving Trailers	\$ 100.00
Plaster of Paris for Scholarship Booth	\$ 58.22
CFMS September Program video rental	\$ 7.50
Raffle Tickets for the 2009 show	\$ 296.33
October newsletter	\$ 54.56
2009 show advertising	\$ 17.42
Website hosting bill	\$ 119.88
Phone Bill	\$ 22.04
RCT Settle up for the Bus Trip	<u>\$ 250.14</u>
Total Disbursement	\$ 1,839.54

Ending Balance \$7,943.16