



Nuggets From The Prez

Why don't emeralds make good comedians? They crack under pressure. Ok, that is a bad lapidary joke - but happy birthday to May birthday folks and their emerald birthstone!

I'm beginning to wonder if there is a conspiracy to rain on weekends and only really nice days during the work week. I think last week's weekday field trip to Beale AFB was a success. The weather was perfect, vernal pools in full bloom, and access was given to everyone who signed up (pew!).

Selling at last weekend's Eldorado show was interesting. Heavy rain on Saturday clearly hampered crowds. Sunday, typically half revenue of Saturdays, was nearly the same. So maybe people waited the rain out? Dealers generally were noting shows inland doing poorly this year, only bay area shows still holding well for them. Indication of a bad economy or worry one is coming, who knows. But I know there was a shift in what people were buying to small, low cost, or value-holding items, and away from large display specimens. Counting myself I only saw six NCGMS club members at the show (all officers). At this writing I'm readying for the Home and Garden show at the fairgrounds. It will be interesting to see how the crowd reacts and their purchases. Regardless, I'll bring membership forms!

I did a lot of promoting at the Eldorado show with dealers plus CFMS networks, and our tailgate show May 18th at Banner Grange is looking ROBUST! I think many dealers will be selling by the flat and many bargains will be there for the taking. Hope no rain then!

Lori set up a great program on opals for the May meeting that will be very interesting.

John and co-op clubs have numerous trips set up, make sure to take advantage!

Charlie (memberships) and I will meet up with our scholarship winner at scholarship night on April 26th. That should be fun!

As you know, I get on my soapbox from time to time about volunteering. There are some special needs that need support now.

1. We need promotion for the May 18 tailgate show (social media, posting flyers, etc).
2. Volunteers are needed for the Earth's Treasures Show in October. Right now a Show Chair, and chairs for sections like advertising, etc., are needed. Frank will help mentor and be vendor/display chair. Please help!

See you at the May meeting. -Blaze

NCGMS 2024 Field Trips *(please double-check before the trip to ensure it is still planned):*

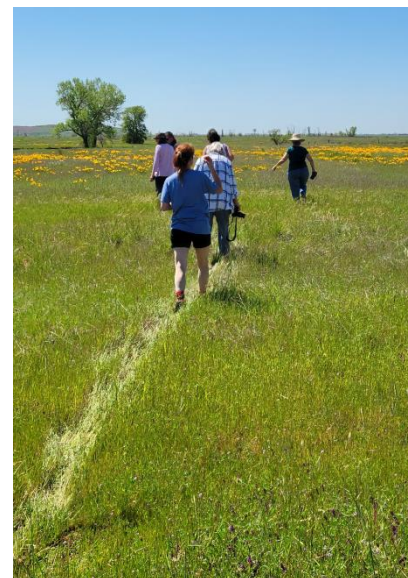


2024 Proposed Trips		HOST
April 23/24/25 (date TBD)	Beale AFB Vernal Pool /ecology tour	Blaze Baker
Apr 26-28	Chinese Camp\Bagby	John Dolman
May 13	Traverse Creek – quartz, garnets, vesuvianite, serpentine minerals	John Dolman
May 24-25	Ford Point area – quartz, small pyrite and limonite cubes	John Dolman
Jun 1	Empire, NV Exploration for New Collecting Sites	Laurie Hayek
Jun 15-16	Markleeville area – quartz in rhyolite, chalcopyrite	John Dolman
Jun 22-23	Nevada Lapis	John Dolman
June 27	Highway 20 Argillite	John Dolman
Jul 4-6	Crystal Peak – quartz, feldspar, chrysocolla	John Dolman
July 11	Devil’s Postpile geology tour (Tahoe National Forest), possible gold panning	Blaze Baker
Jul 18-21	Davis Creek	John Dolman
Aug 30-31	Bagby	John Dolman
Sep 1-2	Bagby	
Oct 11-14	Tuledad	John Dolman
Nov 28-30	Big X area or Dec 7/14/21/28 (weather replacement dates)	John Dolman
TBD	Do you have an idea for a field trip? Maybe you know a nice place for rocks and don’t mind sharing with the club? Please contact us with your trip ideas!	varies

Fieldtrip Report – *Beale Air Force Base*

Blaze Baker, Trek Leader/Club President

Club members recently joined trip leader Blaze Baker on a field trip to Beale AFB to see vernal pools, geological formations, and an abundant array of wildflowers. We learned about vernal pools and grassland management, including how cattle’s taste for non-native grasses helps the vernal pools thrive, such that their grazing is used to manage the vegetation on the property. Blaze explained about the role of pocket gophers in the mima mounds. We were given lots of handouts. The weather was wonderful and our timing for the wildflower bloom was perfect. Great Trip!



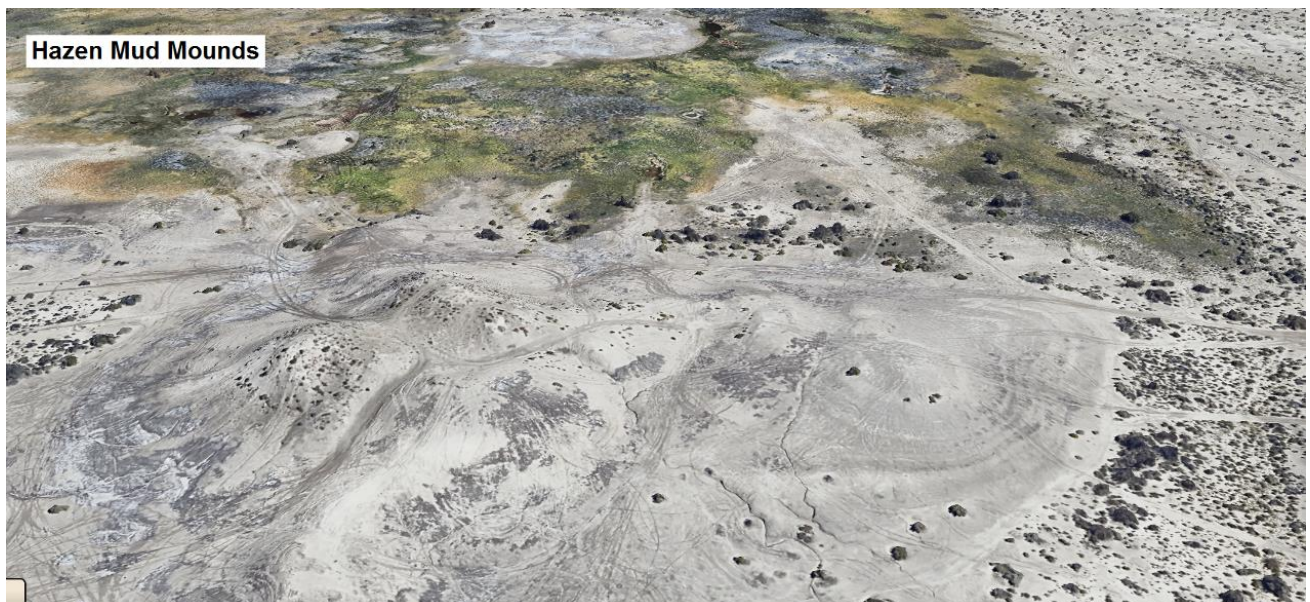
Fieldtrip Report - 4/13/24 *A Typical Exploration of Central Nevada*

Rich Cross, Newsletter Editor/Trek Leader

Once again conditions were good, the desert was drying out after recent storms, so I invited a friend rockhounding. He was game, and suggested we look for blue gem silica and ammonites at a spot that shall remain nameless. I promised him purple fluorite in return, a good trade!

Tom invited a couple friends who had previously been out on a tour with me, experienced desert explorers and general all-around Good People. We agreed upon a meeting time at Grimes Point, the traditional rock club rendezvous point in that region. It has bathrooms, lol. The day before our scheduled meeting time, we discovered everyone was ready early, packed, and eager to go, so we all left our homes early in the afternoon, headed east to the desert.

I stopped at the Hazen Mud Mounds, known for OHV's, hot springs and fossils. The spring was unuseable, and I almost got seriously stuck in heavy, deep mud. (Go figure, with a name like "mud mounds.") I did find a cave with pictographs along the prehistoric Lake Lahontan shoreline; keep your eyes open for red pigment on tufa in that area. As I returned to pavement, I realized I had so much clay/mud stuck to my truck, that it was messing with my suspension and alignment, so I stopped at Fallon to wash my truck. My apologies to car wash staff for destroying your wash bay!



Continuing east out of Fallon, I passed Sand Mountain and the lonely pioneer children's grave, finally coming into view of our new meeting point, camp "somewhere along the slopes of Chalk Mountain, probably the east side, because that's where all the good diggings are." The desert is still wet, with washouts, but I finally found my way to the east side of the mountain, and they weren't there. But that was ok, because I was enjoying the roads and sunset on Chalk Mountain. And then a miracle occurred, I had phone service and they called me to tell me they were on the west side! Off I tore to their camp, just in time for a hot meal. The sun set, contrails from Navy aircraft still illuminated by the light far overhead.

Chalk Mountain



The four of us spent the next two days visiting fluorite mines in the area, collecting purple and clear specimens, plus some nice quartz clusters. The roads are still washed out from last year's epic storms, so it took us a full day of manic driving on jeep trails just to reach the first prospect. But from there it was awesome possum!

pink fluorite



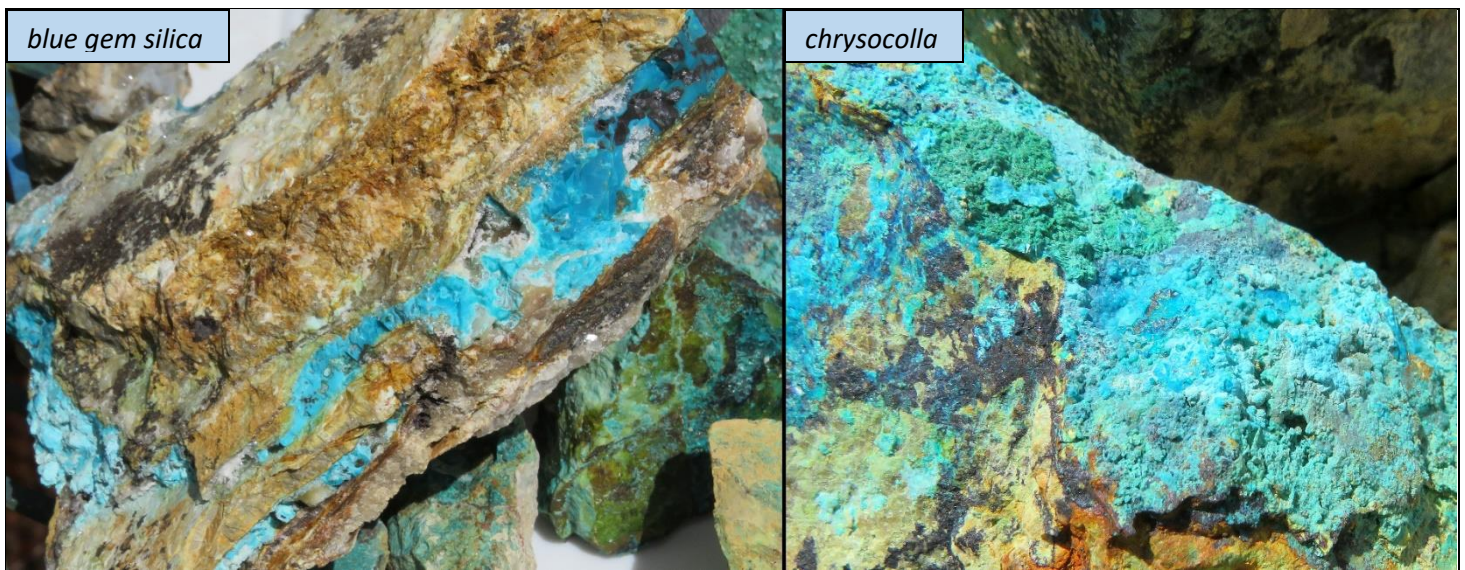
camp



Basecamp was at an old ranch site, with actual trees, a nice creek, and a Sergeant York mobile AA gun. I stayed up later than when I'm camping solo, good company and all. Aircraft had dog fights far overhead, and at one point a Blackhawk helicopter popped over the closest ridge to buzz our camp. A string of 40+ Starlink satellites passed overhead, looking at first like a comet.

The fourth day we headed south a couple hours to a mining district near Mina. After a couple quick detours for gas, then agates, then donuts on a playa, we headed up a rocky road into the mining area, quickly finding bright blue/green pebbles of chrysocolla everywhere. Fossils may be also found in the area, but our goal was some sweet copper minerals, gem silica specifically. And on a rocky summit full of adits we found some! Such a beautiful, blue mineral, definitely superior to simple chrysocolla. There was also enough chrysocolla, pretty in its own right, to satisfy perhaps endless rock club fieldtrips. Probably because it was so difficult to reach?

From there, we all separated, some to home, others headed even further out into the desert. I got home, exhausted, washed my truck, cleaned up my nicks and scrapes, and was ready to return the next day. Maybe we'll make time for fossils next trip.



April Board Meeting Minutes (4/2/2024)

The Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Blaze Baker.

It was determined there was a quorum of the Boad in attendance.

Present: Lori Woodhall, Edwina Swensen, Mike Field, Cathie Field, Eric Trygg, Blaze Baker, Sheila Baker

Others Present: John Dolman

Motion I: Mike made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Lori seconded the motion, motion – carried unanimously.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Lori advised for the next month's program she has enlisted Fran Todd from Pilot Hill who will speak about opals.

Motion II: Mike made a motion to pay a speaker stipend of \$75.00.
Cathie seconded, motion – carried unanimously.

There was no correspondence to report.

Treasurer's report was presented by Mike.

Motion III: Sheila made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented.
Cathie seconded, motion – carried unanimously.

Blaze reported that Frank Van Heck will be responsible for the Vendors, Exhibitors and Food Vendors for the upcoming show in October. We need others to step up and help.

Blaze reported on a trip to the Amsel storage facility. It has become apparent there are several categories of contents. Items to keep, items to move to our storage under the Grange Hall, items that could be stored in the trailer, items to donate and items for the dump. It was reported that the storage facility costs us \$85 per month or \$1,020.00 a year (currently paid through June 2024). By disbursing items as per the above list we will not need the space. We will see if Restore might be interested in several of the items. Stay tuned.

Discussion took place about the status of the trailer and failed skylight. No information readily available as to its current status.

There needs to be a work party for our storage under the Grange Hall.

Motion IV: Sheila made a motion to clear out the Amsel Storage facility by the end of June and not renew our contract.

Lori seconded, motion – carried unanimously.

Blaze brought up the subject of the having an ongoing Junior's Program. It is very valuable to the mission of our club, however, there are issues when working with children. Workers need to be vetted and we do not have information on what this entails. Discussion took place on how to reach children, like possibly going into the schools for a presentation. Lori suggested we reach out to the science fairs that some of the schools hold.

Blaze reported that he is working on a tailgate show to be held at the Banner Grange on the weekend of 5/18, 2024. It will be \$15.00 per vendor space. Lori suggested the club also have a

booth to get the word out. Blaze will be there the weekend before selling and will promote the tailgate event at that time.

Mike reported that the Earth Treasurers budget has been settled.

Sheila reported that we have submitted the information for school scholarships to the Nevada Union High School district for consideration by students. We have offered \$500 for a student interested in pursuing earth sciences.

Blaze reported that he has set up a tour of the vernal pools, rock formations, etc. at Beale AFB for 4/11/2024. Interested parties must be vetted prior to getting on the base. If inclement weather a back-up date of 4/25/2024 is available. He will talk about this at the General Meeting.

Mike brought up the subject of paid members vs. the number we paid the federation for. Mike will work with Charles Lindquist to resolve this item.

Lori talked about having a directory of members who have services or businesses that club members might be interested in. This information could be part of our Rock Writings. We need someone to take this on.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sheila Baker, Secretary

May 18, 2024
Free Admission 8 am to 3 pm
At Banner Grange
12629 McCourtney Road
Grass Valley, CA
1 mile past
Nevada County Fairgrounds

Tailgate Rock Swap & Sale

Public welcome swap or buy gems, rocks, minerals, jewelry, equipment: anything rock-related!
Sale spaces public & members alike: \$15 per parking space, buy up to three, 1st come. . . .
Email NCGMS at oominerals@gmail.com for booth details (45 available)

April General Meeting Minutes (4/2/2024)

The meeting was called to order by President Blaze Baker at 7:07 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: 26, Guests Present: 4

Blaze reported that the Placerville Gem Show is scheduled for 4/13-14/2024.

Blaze reported that plans are set in place for our tailgate sale at the Banner Grange on McCourtney Road. There will be a \$15 charge per parking place, and sale begins at 8 am with set-up at 7 am.

If you have not paid your annual dues it is now past due. Please take care of it.

Blaze reported that a trip was made to the storage unit, Amsel Way Storage, and there were a lot of items determined to be in several categories. Items to keep and move to either the storage at the Grange, items that can go to the trailer, items to be donated and items for a dump run. The unit costs us \$85 per month (\$1,020 per year) and is deemed not worth the cost.

The topic of the Junior's Program was discussed by the Board at their meeting. We do not have a leader for the group and also coming to light is anyone working with children needs to be vetted. There is a possibility of working with the schools and this will be explored.

Frank Van Hecke has advised that he will work with the Vendors, Exhibitors and Food Vendors for the show. We will need lots of volunteers to fill in and keep the show a viable part of the club. Be ready to step up and do your part to help make it a success.

Sheila reported that a scholarship template has been loaded into the Nevada Joint Union High School District's website, Going Merry. We have had 19 applications and the scholarship committee is working on a selection. The scholarship is \$500 this year for a high school senior majoring in earth sciences.

John Dolman advised that trip sign-up sheets are on the table for those interested in going.

Blaze reported that the date of 4/11/2024 is set for a field trip to Beale AFB to visit vernal pools, geological settings and Bald Mountain. In case of inclement weather, the date of 4/25/2024 is set. In order to attend, each person needs to be cleared and must submit their information which includes CDL#, DOB, SS#, etc. He suggested that if you do not think you



qualify, perhaps do not plan to attend. If there is anyone rejected, he will be notified but not the reason. He will be sending out an information sheet to those who want to attend.

Sunshine report by Lori advised that we need to keep Katie Baker in our thoughts.

Lori advised that the program for next month will be a speaker on opals.

Lori stated that we would like to let members know about members who have rock related businesses such as rock shops or perhaps jewelry repairs. We are looking at having that information available in our newsletter, Rock Writings. Please let us know if you would like to be included.

Blaze reported that we are in the process of compiling all our records, in one place, and with a schedule on what and how long to keep certain records. We have located our original papers, some financial records, as well as minutes of past meetings. Once these are “in order” we will store them in one place for future reference. They will be in our storage area at the Grange Hall (men’s restroom locker). We are getting organized!!

After a break – Frank Van Hecke presided as the auctioneer for the meeting program. We had lots of good stuff and profit from the sale will be donated to a local mining museum. Treasurer Mike reports that we had a profit of \$558.00. Thank you everyone!

Respectfully submitted: Sheila Baker, Secretary

Club Member Services

DO YOU HAVE A ROCK-RELATED BUSINESS? OR HAVE A TALENT OR SKILL YOU’D BE WILLING TO SHARE?

We know many of our members own businesses that relate to our club’s scope. Also, there is a wealth of skills, opportunities, and wisdom among our members. And we wanted to provide a way to share that information with our membership.

Do you buy and sell, gems, minerals, or jewelry as a business? Do you provide jewelry fabrication and repair? Do you offer guided outings to rock-collecting sites? Do you sell gold-prospecting equipment? Or do you have a skill or talent you’d be willing to share?



We want to create a directory for fellow members to use, that can be accessed through our website. How it will be organized depends on how many respond, but most likely it will be organized topically.

If you would like to be included in this directory, please email Lori Woodhall (loriwoodhall@earthlink.net) with the following: your name(s), business name, what you do (keep description brief- one or two sentences at the most), phone number, and website links (if applicable).

Please reply by May 10 if you would like to be included in the June newsletter. We will add it to our website after that.



CFMS Updates & Shows (<https://www.cfmsinc.org/>)



2024 CFMS Shows

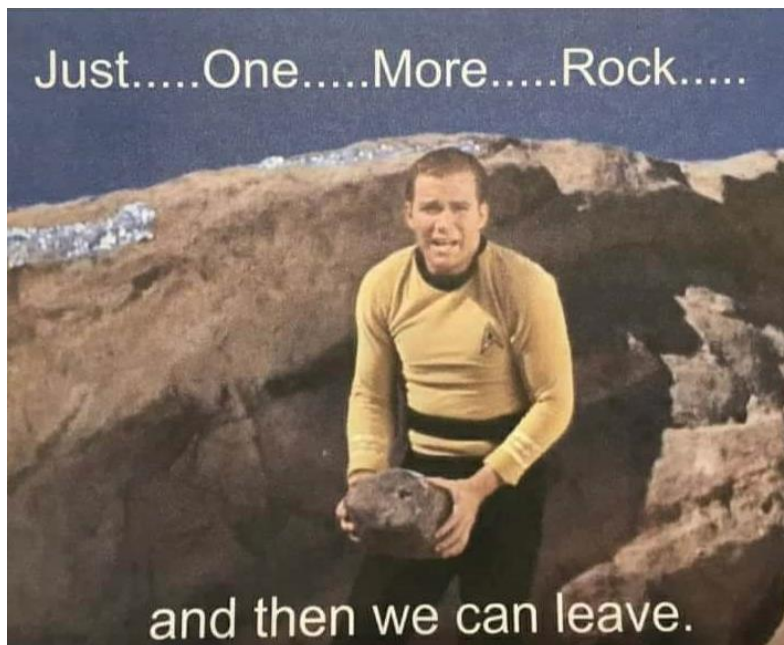
<p>April 27-28, 2024 – Santa Cruz Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society 307 Church St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Contact: scruzmgs@gmail.com Website: https://scrockngem.org</p>	<p>May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club 2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536 Hours: Sat 10AM – 5PM, Sun 10AM – 4PM Parking and Admission are free. Plenty of vendors, displays and activities for the whole family. Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com</p>
<p>May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club 2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM AVGMC Rock, Jewelry and Gem Show. Parking and Admission are free. Plenty of vendors, displays and activities for the whole family. Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com</p>	<p>May 18, 2024 – Nevada City, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap Tailgater!</p> <p>12629 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945 Hours: 8am to 3pm Free admission and parking. Come get your rocks! We are hosting a tailgate sale, for members to sell/trade beautiful rocks and minerals. Expect a variety of both museum-quality and fresh-out-of-the-dirt specimens, something for everyone! Garden rocks, windowsill rocks, even jewelry crafted by our own local artisans.</p>
<p>June 1, 2024 – Roseville, CA Roseville Rock Rollers Rock Sale and Swap Tailgater 8pm – 4pm Carmichael Elks Lodge Parking Lot 5631 Cypress Avenue Carmichael, CA. 95608 Join the fun & have a nice day out with fellow rockhounds FREE ADMISSION, family friendly event, food & soft drinks for sale</p>	<p>June 8-9, 2024 – Escondido, CA Palomar Gem and Mineral Club California Center for the Arts – at the Conference Center, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido Hours: Saturday 10AM – 5 PM, Sun 10AM – 4 PM Conference Center, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido. Admission: \$5.00, Children under 12 Free Contact: 425. 281.6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com</p>



**October 2024, Date TBD Grass Valley, CA
Our Show!**

Also, Google the words "Oregon gem and mineral society shows":
many shows (closer than the SoCal shows – and no state tax) show up.

Nationally: http://www.amfed.org/fed_shows.htm



**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1686, Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686**

2024 Officers

PRESIDENT	Blaze Baker
VICE PRESIDENT	Lori Woodhall
SECRETARY	Sheila Baker
TREASURER	Mike Field
DIRECTORS	Eric Trygg Edwina Swenson Cathie Field

**(Call, Text, or Email, no voicemail)*

2024 Committee Chairpersons

CLUB PICNIC	Lori Woodhall
FEDERATION DIRECTOR	Frank Van Hecke
HISTORIAN	Beverly Glenn
HOSPITALITY	Christie Harris
JUNIOR PROGRAM	Julie DeHollander
	Cheryl Hendrickson
LIBRARIAN	Beverly Glenn



MEMBERSHIP	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Rich Cross	
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
REFRESHMENTS	Monthly Birthday Honorees	
SCHOLARSHIP	Polly Marie	
SHOW ORGANIZER	Frank Van Hecke	
SUNSHINE	Lori Woodhall	
TREK LEADER (Field Trips)	John Dolman	
WEBMASTER	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org



Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society meets monthly with few exceptions. Membership is informed of exceptions on the website, at meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

General Membership Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building, 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

May's Meeting: *Opal Potpourri*

A review of interesting opal facts, opal structure and crystal forms, opal locations around the world, traits of opals from the mines, and other fun facts....

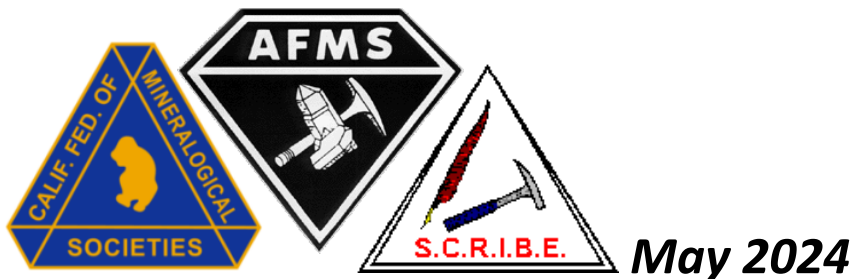
Our presenter, Fran Todd, from Roseville Rock Rollers, is a long-time rockhound, frequent visitor to Tucson, speaker, cab class teacher, and describes herself as "addicted to opals!" Fran will give us a Power Point presentation as well as bring samples for us to view of this beautiful gemstone.





Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 1686
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686

First Class Mail



General Meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Presentation: *Opal Potpourri, A review of interesting opal facts....*

Meetings Monthly First Tuesdays

Board Meeting (All are welcome!) 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting and program at 7:00 p.m.

(no meeting in July - Picnic)

Golden Empire Grange Guild

11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

2024 Membership dues

Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$25.00 for singles and \$30.00 for families. Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email. Dues are annual and payable in January.

Bring a Friend!

