

# Rock Writings

August, 2024

Newsletter of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Vol. 57, #8

## Nuggets From The Prez

While my entire adult work life has been based out of Nevada City, my work has taken me all over the world for field work. This includes the Middle East, across SW and SE U.S., on USFS fire crews, as a field biologist, and other tasks. My hottest work times were Arkansas with 99 degrees and 90% humidity (plus ticks, chiggers, and poisonous snakes), 45 days of Tucson's desert with sustained 30 knot winds and every day 111 degrees or higher, and wildland firefighting in every western state; truly you have never known thirsty until firefighting. I now work in the Sacramento valley daily. This July hit 120; I still take heat being over 50 now, but I do enjoy a break from it too. With this July's record-setting temps, concern about the annual club picnic was raised over our guest's safety and club liability, food safety, who would even show up, so our board and I decided it would be prudent to cancel (Nevada City moved our date to next July at no charge, by the way). Now, admitting my bias, I avoid potlucks, having been made sick at a few, and am only in the club to talk rocks and go on trips. I support potlucks and parties because I know others like them, but for me it is as much a priority as ensuring all the fish in the ocean have bicycles. After heat at work, spending my free time sitting and sweating at a potluck risking food poisoning was not my idea of a good time, so I know I wasn't

going to be there, and likely most others would avoid too. Many other local events were also cancelled due to heat.

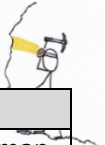
The board received a long angry email from a club member claiming we had no right to cancel the picnic and challenged the board to bring the email to the meeting. No problem: I'll bring it to the September meeting to share with anyone (I will not be at August's meeting due to long-term plans). It is easy to send inflammatory email, or troll on social media. But stepping up and contributing to the club in earnest is the meaningful way to support our club.

Even still, my concern is not July's picnic cancellation, but of a hard decision that may be facing the board. If we do not get someone to oversee the October mineral show, I fear we will have to consider whether to have the show. And elections are also coming soon: Time to step up!

And last, happy birthday to my August friends – and August's peridot birthstone! When our son was born, I set stones in two bracelets for my wife, one in diamonds, the other in peridot to celebrate his August delivery. I like peridot's color and size for its price and clarity, it is an undervalued stone.

*V/r, -Blaze*

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



2024 Proposed Trips		Host
Aug 30-31	Bagby	John Dolman
Sep 1-2	Bagby	
<b>Oct 5-6</b>	<b>OUR GEM &amp; MINERAL SHOW!!!</b>	
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 – Geological Tour of Mosquito Ridge Road *(cancelled)*

*(Editor)*

Have I mentioned you're not exploring enough if you're not running into gates, downed trees, and other obstacles to your journey? The heat has been extreme lately, resulting in our annual picnic being cancelled. But then I received a message from a local geologist rock star, one of our local legends, inviting me to join him for a quick survey for ammonites. It was too great an opportunity to pass up, so with his blessing, I posted up a new fieldtrip for the day, nevermind the heat, we got this!

Only one other person showed up to the meet spot, another preeminent local geologist. The three of us have all spent our lives out in extreme heat, knew what we were facing, and were well-prepared. But as we stood there, absolutely baking, I coughed, and that was the final straw. It was hot, I felt sick (more than a cough), and Covid is raging thru the area lately, so we decided to reschedule. We're all retired with time to spare, and the weather will get better, so why force the issue?



# July Board & General Membership Meeting Minutes

July is traditionally a month-off for the formal board meeting, and this year was no exception, so no notes for the board or general membership meetings will be published in this month's newsletter.



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



### 2024 CFMS Shows

<p><b>June 1, 2024 – Roseville, CA</b>  <b>Roseville Rock Rollers</b>                  Rock Sale and Swap Tailgater                  8pm – 4pm                  Carmichael Elks Lodge Parking Lot                  5631 Cypress Avenue                  Carmichael, CA. 95608                  Join the fun &amp; have a nice day out with fellow rockhounds  <b>FREE ADMISSION</b>, family friendly event, food &amp; soft drinks for sale</p>	<p><b>June 8-9, 2024 – Escondido, CA</b>  <b>Palomar Gem and Mineral Club</b>                  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>
<p><b>August 3-4, 2024 – Roseville, CA</b>  <b>Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society</b>                  The Grounds Roseville, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville                  Hours: Saturday 10AM – 5PM, Sunday 10AM – 4PM                  Over 70 vendors, inside/out, featuring: Crystals, Fossils, Minerals, Amethyst, Beads, Gemstones, Meteorites, plus Free – Scientific Mineral and Gem ID – bring your rocks for a no-cost Scientific Identification! Fun for Kids in “Education Station”, Petrified Wood, Stone carvings, many special exhibits. Demonstrations, Huge Rock Auctions. General admission \$10.00, Kids – 12 and under Free. Parking \$10. Tickets at the door, online, or grab a discount coupon on our website: <a href="http://www.rockrollers.com/">www.rockrollers.com/</a></p>	<p><b>September 21-22, 2024 – Monterey, CA</b>  <b>Carmel Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Society</b>                  Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA                  Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM both days                  Rocks, minerals, fossils, vendors, gems, silent auction, beads, equipment, exhibits, kind's stuff, and jewelry                  Contact: <a href="mailto:susieharlow@gmail.com">susieharlow@gmail.com</a>                  Website: <a href="http://cvgms.rocks">http://cvgms.rocks</a></p>
<p><b>October 12-13, 2024 – Redwood City, CA</b>                  Peninsula Gem and Geology Society and Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society                  Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061                  Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM daily                  Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Gems, Jewelry, Beads, Demonstrations, Kid's Activities                  Contact: <a href="mailto:cci@pacbell.net">cci@pacbell.net</a>                  Website: <a href="http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org/sgms-gem-mineral-show.html">www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org/sgms-gem-mineral-show.html</a></p>	<p><b>October 26-27, 2024 – Sacramento, CA</b>                  Sacramento Mineral Society                  Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento                  Hours: Saturday 10AM – 5PM, Sun 10AM – 4PM                  88th Annual Sacramento Gem, Mineral, &amp; Jewelry Show.                  Free parking, \$8 adult admission, kids under 12 free with paid adult                  Contact: (916) 662-5819,  <a href="mailto:gemsow@sacramentomineralsociety.org">gemsow@sacramentomineralsociety.org</a>                  Website: <a href="http://www.sacgemshow.com">www.sacgemshow.com</a></p>

October 5-6, 2024, Grass Valley, CA

## Our Show!

Also, search online using phrases like "Oregon gem and mineral society shows"

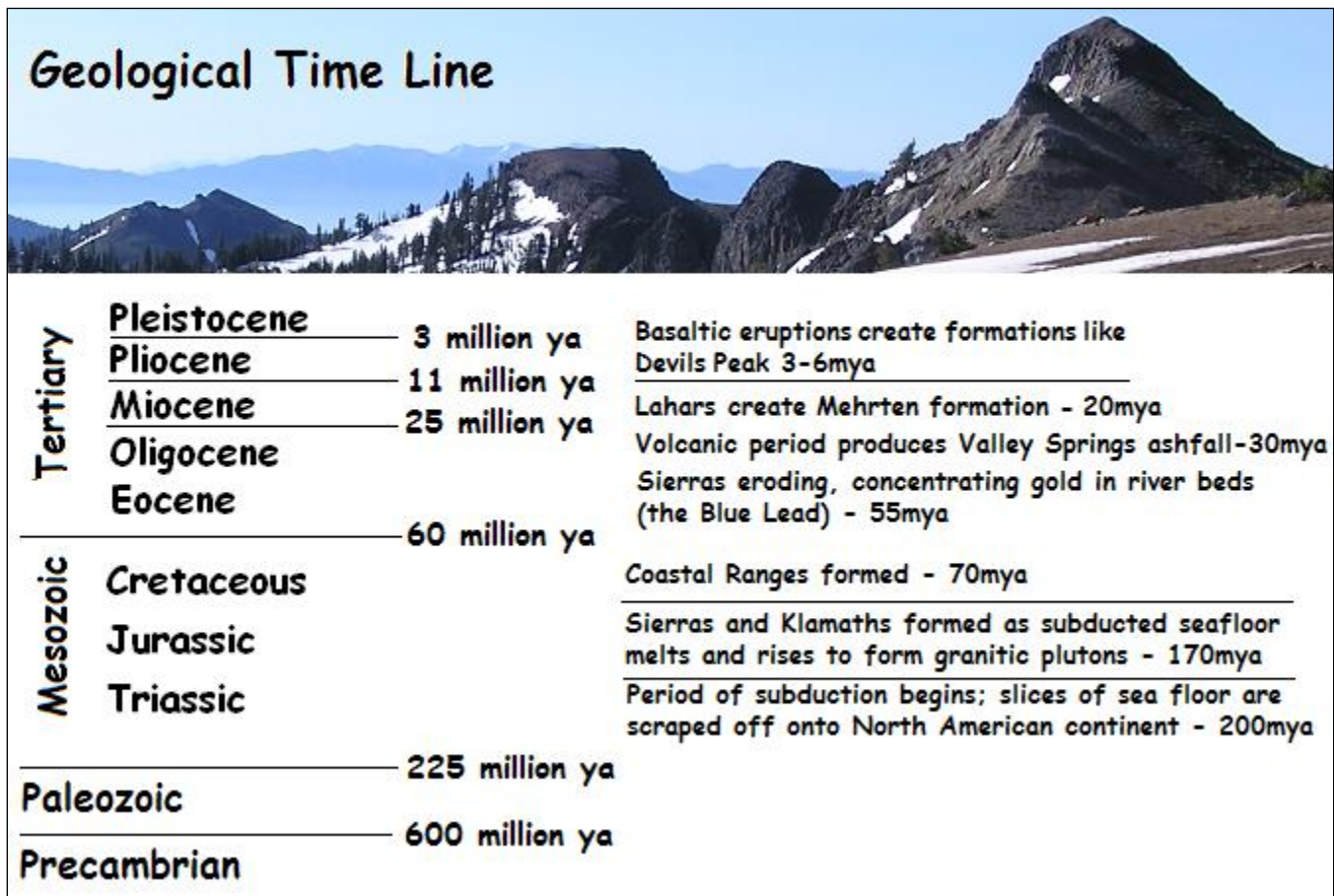
Other events, closer than the SoCal shows – and no state tax, show up.

Nationally: [http://www.amfed.org/fed\\_shows.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fed_shows.htm)

## Our Local Geologic Timeline & Glaciation

(editor)

It is easier to learn our local geology if you're aware of the big events, as they occur on the timeline. We've had a lot of geological action around here, what with subduction and glaciation, so of course this graphic shows just a few events:



(Apologies for the Comic Sans font. We all went through that phase....)

About three million years b.p. a glacial age began. Glaciers appeared at the high elevations, grew down into the canyons, then melted. The cycle repeated many times, with each period named according to both the time and location. Erosion went into hyperdrive, and the canyons were scoured deep as the glaciers moved tremendous amounts of earth downstream. The inland sea filled up with this material and became the Central Valley.



The higher ridges escaped the glaciers' scouring, so today the Sierra Crest is still capped by remnants of ancient volcanic activity. The crest of the Forehill Divide, for example, has areas of rhyolitic ash capped with welded tuff and old lahars of the Mehrten formation, with small basaltic outcrops from the same age as Devils Peak.

Glacial Periods	
McGee	1.5 million years b.p.
Sherwin	756,000 b.p.
Tahoe1	130,000 to 160,000 b.p.
Tahoe	65,000 to 75,000 b.p.
Tenaya	27,000 to 37,000 b.p.
Tioga	10,000 to 22,500 b.p.

Glaciers mold the land in interesting ways, polishing the rock and digging out potholes, while leaving erratics scattered in their wake. They were big. Take a moment sometime at the Emigrant Gap viewpoint to visualize yourself standing on a rocky island, surrounded by snow and ice. A glacier in the valley of Lake Spaulding wraps around Clyde Mountain and pours into the South Yuba Gorge. Part of it overflows into Bear Valley, finally disappearing at the valley's lower end. Another glacier flows down (pretty much fills) Carpenter Valley. During some glacial periods, the ice would have been several hundred feet higher than your present position, at its deepest lapping around the summit of Black Mountain.

Pick out the polished rock of distant scrapes which defines the glacier's height. The country was different 70,000 years ago.



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

**2024 Officers**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Blaze Baker
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Lori Woodhall
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Sheila Baker

**TREASURER** Mike Field  
**DIRECTORS** Eric Trygg  
 Edwina Swenson  
 Cathie Field  
 \*(Call, Text, or Email, no voicemail)

**2024 Committee Chairpersons**

<b>CLUB PICNIC</b>	Lori Woodhall	
<b>FEDERATION DIRECTOR</b>	Frank Van Hecke	
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Beverly Glenn	
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Christie Harris	
<b>JUNIOR PROGRAM</b>	Julie DeHollander	
	Cheryl Hendrickson	
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Beverly Glenn	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Rich Cross	
<b>NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER</b>	Charles Lindquist	webmaster@ncgms.org
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	Monthly Birthday Honorees	
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	Polly Marie	
<b>SHOW ORGANIZER</b>	Frank Van Hecke	
<b>SUNSHINE</b>	Lori Woodhall	
<b>TREK LEADER (Field Trips)</b>	John Dolman	
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	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**

**August's Meeting:** Dick Hilton, local rockstar geologist, will give a presentation on *Dinosaurs of California*.



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

First Class Mail



**August, 2024**

**General meeting: Tuesday, August 6.**

**August presentation: *Dinosaurs of California***

**Meetings Monthly First Tuesdays**

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

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

**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!**