

Rock Writings



November, 2024

Newsletter of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Vol. 57, #11

Nuggets From The Prez

Topaz and citrine: November birthstones, happy birthday to you late fall birthdays!

Well, the show came together. We don't have final numbers yet, since receipts are still coming in, but it looks like it made a good profit. Honestly, due to low volunteer support coming into the show, I was ready to hold a board vote to cancel in September. I'm surprised it came together as well as it did. Thank you everyone. This was largely from work from a few superstars who really busted their butts before and during the show. I still strongly feel it would not have been so stressful had there been a summer of support leading up to the show.

Super kudos yet again to Frank who was not the show lead this year, but de-facto was, and made all the lead-up work and during show efforts come together. Likewise, Mike and Cathie did so much behind the scenes it would take this page to note everything (but special thanks for managing food, treasurer work, and all the "gopher" tasks)!

Charlie and Sheila ran all over the county putting up banners and signs/replacing them/moving them around/taking them down, labeling every freebie with club info, holding a super-profitable silent auction, and again gopher tasks.

Katie Baker's work at the membership booth was great (we got 5 new members already). I especially liked her display cabinet showing what we are all about!

After me solo unloading tables, Ken Taylor showed up (pew!) – thank you deeply for not only your work during the show and bringing the trailer to/from. We also need to thank him for waterproofing the trailer's roof the week after, thank you - deeply!!

And thank you to everyone who worked on ads and the weekend – the success is on you coming in and saving the day! Not doing the table skirting was a WIN! We were basically ready for vendors by 10:30 – amazing!

Sheila has been working the phones and emails for next year's board and it is looking like we will have one – barely. So you are safe to come to a real election (no not that mess in D.C.) but ours! We have the next year's board and some standing rules to vote on. It is important to come, we still vote in person – just record your TV!

Please consider committee roles you can volunteer for the next board to OK in January, your help is still needed!

Back to winterizing and planning Quartzite...
V/r, -Blaze

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



2024 Proposed Trips		Host
Oct 5-6	OUR GEM & MINERAL SHOW!!!	
Nov 28-30	Big X area or Dec 7/14/21/28 (weather replacement dates)	John Dolman
Dec TBD	Crozier Wildfire and Big X Mountain (pending reopening of area to public)	Rich Cross
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

Field Trip Report – A Fee Trip for Citrine

(Rich Cross, Trek Leader)

Fee digs offer a (generally) reliable means of finding your own rock and mineral specimens in the wild. Gems you find yourself will always hold special meaning to you and to those to whom you give them. Fee digs are usually established mining claims with heavy equipment, where the operators do most of the heavy work, digging up the ground and even sorting material into rough piles for you to high-grade. Fees vary, from maybe \$50/bucket, to \$4,000 for an all day dig at a famous local amethyst mine, as much material as you can move. (And that last place reserves to the right to keep your best finds to themselves.)

It is also possible to find local guides who know the sweet spots, and will give you a map or take you there themselves for a fee. These trips are generally “wilder,” and can be hit-and-miss; finding minerals is probably not guaranteed. The joy in these kinds of trips lies in exploration and enjoying a nice day in the mountains. Several members recently went on such a trip, in an area-to-remain-secret within the general gold mining belt of the Ancestral Yuba River.



Typical quartz crystal outcropping

We drove about an hour up the ridge, easy paved road the entire way. The guests opted against stopping along the way to view things such as a bedrock mortar site or a particularly

good view, in favor of taking the direct route to the dig. Such was their commitment to finding some crystals! Shortly enough, we were on dirt, manzanita and white thorn scratching the sides of our trucks as we navigated through an old wildfire scar. That lasted only five minutes, and we parked at the trailhead, a wide spot along the road.



Smokey quartz

Our destination was a quarter mile away on mostly-level single track trail, so we had to carry in all our equipment, ugh. Since the sought-after crystals were embedded in the quartz outcropping, that mean we had to carry some really heavy tools, big hammers and wedges and whatnot.

Fortunately one of the guests is a roofer, used to carrying heavy loads on narrow paths! Within the first five minutes, his 8 year old son found a perfect little crystal point, right in the trail. Just a reminder to keep your eyes open during the hike in, don't limit your search to the expected location.

The trip was planned for "a couple hours," but we ended up staying closer to six. It was a nice day, perfect weather to be out on a sunny slope, cracking open rocks. Exploring a new outcropping is addictive, as you discover vugs within the crag full of crystals. They weren't generally large, but they WERE beautiful, water-quality, citrine, and smokey varieties, with occasional pyrite cubes. And the roofer found a boulder he liked so much, he carried it back to his truck on his shoulder, a monumental feat of strength.

Just a nice day in the mountains, with the bonus of finding tiny gems as souvenirs.



Welcome to Our New Members!

We have several new members who signed up at the show, welcome to the club, Gregory Adams, Sarah McCarthy, Dale Mansfield, Judie Eremo, John and Sharon Barton, and Alisa and Jeff Simanek. We look forward to discussing rocks with you! Bring your favorite to a meeting some time, we all like seeing new specimens.

And the winner of the "Free Membership for One Year" drawing was Everett and Suzan Biron

Welcome to the club!



October Board Meeting Minutes (10/1/2024)

President Blaze Baker called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. It was determined there was a quorum present.

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

Motion I – Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting. Seconded Cathie, vote carried unanimously.

Mike gave a treasurer's report and distributed his worksheet. He reported that the vendor sales were almost met and with attendance we should be ok financially. It was reported that attendance has been down at many of the shows this year.

Motion II – Sheila made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Lori, the vote carried unanimously.

Old Business:

With regard to the storage facility at Amsel Way, there is still more work to do to clear it out so we should look to November before we can release it.

Brief discussion of the children's program and how to get the word out and interest among students. We need to rethink our approach and Eric said he is willing to look for groups to present to outside of the schools, such as possibly home schools.

There is still a need for a show chair for our October show. We also need more members to step up and volunteer to work at the show. This will be presented at the general meeting tonight.

New Business:

Ken Taylor has volunteered to get the show trailer from storage to the fair grounds and back on Sunday. Blaze was uncertain about how his “quick repair” to the roof vent might have held over the winter. It would be ideal if we could get the vent replaced while it is empty at the fair grounds, so Ken Taylor said he would get that done while the trailer is empty. Thank you Ken!

It was reported that Joyce Emerson has volunteered for the 2025 show to be show chair.

Brief discussion of the election of officers at the November meeting. Nomination committee is working on contacting folks about taking an office.

It was reported that Rich Cross has volunteered to do an audit. We will need a committee of three to get this done.

Christmas Dinner is just around the corner and Gwen has offered to prepare a turkey. We can get a ham from Ham Stand like we had last year. Sandy Dent, Cathie and Sheila will work on decorations and Anita Wald-Tuttle can do her Christmas letter pirate exchange, scheduled for December 3, 2024.

Club show items – Friday 8 am set-up, John Dolman has offered to do overnight security. Frank has the site map where everything will be placed inside the hall. We are only skirting the demonstration tables and kids corner. Dealers have been advised to do their own tables. There are 28 exhibitors with 4 outside and 8 demonstrators.

Lori reported that she and Eric were on KNCO today for “On The Town” promoting the show. Ads are running in the Union, on KNCO, Facebook and hopefully, on Yuba Net. Sheila reported that we have had about 4 signs that have disappeared that have been placed at certain intersections.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Baker, Secretary



Anticipation....

October General Meeting Minutes (10/1/2024)

The General meeting was called to order by President Blaze Baker at 7:10
Pledge of Allegiance.

Blaze gave out rocks to lucky folks whose sign-in number was called. Welcome new members!

John Dolman spoke about a couple of upcoming field trips. One trip being to Tuledad King for petrified wood, jaspers and agates. Another trip to Southern Jamestown for opalites which will require a short hike. Information is on the table for folks interested.

Membership Chairman Charles Lindquist reported that dues will be due fairly soon.

Librarian Beverly Glenn said she had nothing new as she has been getting ready for the show.

Blaze circulated a new book purchase on zeolites for folks to look at.

Lori Woodhall (Sunshine Committee) said she has nothing new. That is good news!

Blaze reported that at the next meeting there will be some changes to the bylaws, to be announced.

Nomination committee has been trying to contact folks as it is “that time of year” and we need people to step up for the open positions. See her at the break to discuss your interest. Gwen Fissel commented that she is unclear why the full membership list is not circulated to the full membership. Charles reported that there was a privacy issue a while back when it comes to giving out all of the information to “everyone”. It was a board decision to limit the information to protect privacy. This matter will be brought up at the next board meeting for discussion.

We do not have a show chair for this year. Frank VanHeck was thanked for all he has done in past shows. John Dolman will be doing the overnight security. Set-up will be at 8 am on Friday. Skirting will be done on non-vendor tables only. Display cases will be ready about mid-day on Friday. There are still 2 open display cases.

It was reported that another show had off-duty sheriff reserve people circulate at the show. Joyce Emerson said she would contact the sheriff’s office about this possibility for our show. They should be able to get into the show free.

Mike had sign-up sheets available for people to step up and volunteer. We need you for your club!

Lori introduced our guest speaker, Blaze Baker. Blaze gave a presentation on how to make wire wrap stands to display your treasures. He talked about and circulated the different types of wire that can be used and also circulated many samples of rocks he had wrapped and put on wooden blocks.

Raffle proceeds were \$50.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Baker, Secretary

Proposed Change to NCGMs Standing Rules

NCGMS member Dan Chaplin, concerned that people were not doing anything for this year's show, as well as over his perceived general lack of volunteers, and absence of a Show Chair, came up with proposed standing rules to be voted on by the membership.

Per NCGMS Bylaw ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting, providing written notice has been given in the Bulletin, or by special mailing and post marked at least five days prior to the regular meeting.

This serves as notice for a vote of a proposed standing rule at the November general membership meeting.

Note that this was not solicited by the board and does not represent anyone other than Mr. Chaplin, who began his request by stating, "Toward making sure this kind of thing cannot happen again, I am proposing the following text for a club Standing Rule":

"There will be two Show Co-Chairs and the term for Show Co-Chair is two years. The terms for the Co-Chairs will overlap by a year. During the first term year, a Co-Chair is learning the responsibilities of putting on the show. During the second term year the Co-Chair has the responsibility of managing the show. The following show committee leads comprise the show staff:

- *Vendor Coordinator*
- *Display Coordinator*
- *Silent Auction Coordinator*
- *Demonstrator Coordinator*
- *Show Treasurer*
- *Kid's Corner Coordinator*
- *Admissions Coordinator*
- *Publicity Coordinator*
- *Membership Coordinator*
- *Food Concession Coordinator*
- *Show Security Coordinator*
- *Show Setup Coordinator*
- *Show Teardown Coordinator*

Each is responsible for staffing their committee, preparing resources for, and implementing their part of the show. The club needs to fill the Co-Chair and staff positions as defined above by the regular May meeting.

Without staffing, the board will need to decide whether the show should be canceled. In any case, the contract with the fairgrounds cannot be signed until staffing is completed. The Co-Chairs and staff will meet regularly June to October to plan and monitor preparations for the show. The Co-Chairs will report the status of show preparations to the board, identifying any issues that could impact the show's success."

An Analysis of Proposed Rules Change

It is the opinion of some members that this rule is not workable, due to the large number of coordinator positions that must be filled. In recent history, it has been difficult to fill all positions, but rather than cancel the show, it has proceeded with less services, and has still been considered a success by both general club membership and the public at-large. The club must remain flexible in its ability to host or withdraw certain aspects of the annual show. The sentiment behind the proposed rules change is certainly understood, but it may effectively shut down our annual show early, when so many other options remain.

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	
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.

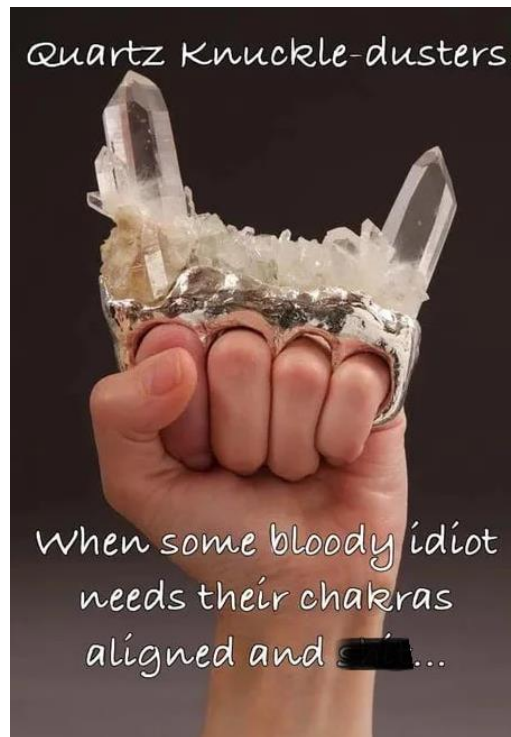
General Membership Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Golden Empire Grange Building, 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

November's Meeting: The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of officers for consideration of the membership. This is important: we need officer positions to continue. The nomination committee will present a proposed slate of officers but if YOU would like to join the board we would welcome you!

So please be a part of this important part of our club!



Available online...



It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2025!

Yes, folks, it's that time again!

Your dues pay for a number of things, including dues to the AMFS, the CFMS, Insurance for field trips and other club activities, rental for our meeting hall, and help to produce (and mail) the newsletter. We all get a lot for such a small amount!

Please fill out the form below, and along with a check please send to our Post Office Box:

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society

Membership Chair

P.O Box 1686

Grass Valley, CA 95945-1686

Dues are due by March 1, 2025

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society (NCGMS) 2025 Membership Renewal Form

Please provide Name, and the following information if anything has changed:

Name(s): _____

Address (Street, City, ZIP) : _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

(Email Address will be part of the club roster unless omission is requested).

Type of Membership (check one):

Adult 18 Years or Older: \$25.00 per year.

Family (one address): \$30.00 per year.

If you wish to receive newsletter by Email only, deduct \$5.00 from normal membership dues.

I wish to receive my newsletter by email and have entered an Email address.

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society (NCGMS) is a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701f of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Contributions made to NCGMS are NOT deductible for tax purposes.





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

First Class Mail



November, 2024

November meeting: Tuesday November 5, 2024

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

2025 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!