



The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

December, 2023

General Meeting

Wed. December 6, 7 PM

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor

Board Meeting

NO BOARD MEETING IN DEC.

RGMS Mission Statement

The **mission** of the **Reno Gem and Mineral Society** is to create, develop, and encourage interest in the Earth Sciences and to locate and identify various material through field trips. As a **501C(3)** corporation, RGMS qualifies for donation write offs of cash and materials. Donation receipts are available at the society's headquarters.

A **General Meeting**, open to the public, is held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Baldini's Casino, Second Floor, 865 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV.

Board meetings are open to all members and are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM at the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV.

Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

Conglomerate 2022

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President's Message

Dean Sizemore

Merry Christmas and a safe happy new year. The end of 2023 has arrived, which means Christmas Party for us on the 2nd. If you've never been to it, come—please do; it's a blast. Thank you all for a great 2023. I'm so thankful for this year and all.

Steve and I are proud to have served you for 4 straight years, unprecedented for a President and Vice President. Steve is moving on to the Board at Large, this will give us more talent and drive to use for so many things. We have a new Vice President which will be good for me heading into year 5. I hope I can do you all proud; I'm so proud of you guys.

Please have a great holiday season, share a meal with someone that may need it, drop off some clothing or dishes. Drop some food to someone you know or don't. Donate to an Angel tree.

We had a great year and as we move into the new one, the building expansion will be going full bore throughout the year. At times, certain classes may be on hold or not available for that day. In December the building is pretty much closed down--no classes, no Board of Directors meeting etc. Lots of volunteers are needed to start on work for the expansion and for cleaning up and painting our original area.

Please join us at Baldini's for our General Meeting with door prizes and awards to be passed out. This month door prizes are all wrapped like presents so no one will know what's in there. Please bring a wrapped something for the door prizes.

See you all in January before classes.

Educational Outreach

Steve Norman, Facilitator

In October 2023, the Reno Gem and Mineral Society's Education Outreach program gave



two presentations to 72 students at Dunn Elementary School. In November, presentations were at Mariposa Charter and Palmer Elementary School. The Mariposa

school had two presentations for their fourth and fifth grades with 56 students. Palmer had two classes and two presentations, with two more upcoming. There were 37 students in attendance. The presentation has examples of minerals and their uses that show how technology advances. Students learn how minerals work and why students might consider a science career. Every student is given a mineral gift, and information is provided to their parents about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. We get support from the Nevada Division of Mineral's program to keep out of abandoned mines. I want to thank **Debbie Bush** for her help on many presentations, and **Alan and Bobbi Metzger** for some of the polished rocks students and teachers receive.

The Future Rockhounds program in October had five students and two students for the November class that explored the characteristics of rocks. Students used vinegar on limestone and coral and found how calcite has cleavage.

and coral and found how calcite has cleavage. Two students earned badges for the attendance and participation. I want to thank **Renée Samuels** for providing a fun art activity for the students.

Jackpot of Gems Show

Daniel Ellis, Show Chairman

Happy Holidays to all of you.

2024 is shaping up to be a fun year for our show. First it is going to be at a new location--the Grand Sierra Resort and Hotel. The September dates are Sat the 15th and Sunday the 16th.

This has all come about because of pricing, parking and the cost of doing the show. We are getting 40,000 sq feet of space for half the cost of the Convention Center's 20,000 sq ft pricing. We get free parking and a block of rooms to offer to our vendors and others who may need that service. Lots of restaurants are there to serve us food and beverages.

We still need help putting this show together for 2024, so if you feel like having some fun with the crazy crew that puts it together, please join us at our monthly meeting--next one is January 15th at 6 PM. As stated, we are moving the show to a new location, so lots must be done to make sure this move goes well. We had 2100 plus people for the 2023 show, so we do not want to lose any of them for this show. Lots of planning has to be done to make it happen. Hope to see some of you on the 15th of January.

Thanks.



Officers' Reports

General Meeting and Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the Rock Building monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request. **Steve Norman**, Secretary; **Janet Longueira**, Treasurer

Sunshine Report

Joanne Sworthout

If you have a situation for which you could use some support from your RGMS friends, or if you know of someone who could, please get in touch with **Joanne** at sunshine@renogms.org.

Membership
Lynda Traves, Director



Wow! It is mid-November as I write this, and it will be December when the newsletter is published. How the time has flown. Mark and I are planning a trip up to the McDermitt site in Oregon over American Thanksgiving (Canadian Thanksgiving is in October). We will be bringing all of the dogs - four now, since we are fostering a Beagle who is a survivor of a testing facility.

Memberships dues in December return to full price and cover members fees through 2024; December \$50 for Family, \$35 for individual, and \$25 for student memberships. If you have paid \$18 for an Individual membership or \$25 for a Family membership, then you will renew your membership in January at the annual membership rates.

We currently have 592 memberships representing 1041 members including approximately 55 school-aged children, some of whom attend the kids' rock classes. (kids can start any time). Those classes include

crafts where kids can identify rocks and paint them. From attending these classes with our grandchildren we have noticed the kids enjoy painting rocks to represent something else, a cat, a flower, a snake, etc. Look for an email blast indicating when the next class is.

Welcome to the following new members for the past month (16 of September to 15 of October):

Christopher Brett and Carolanne Brown

Connie Ronning

Heidi, Erik, and Daniel Dormody

Jeanine Barnes

Jennifer Buys

Jill Manha

Julie Davies & Lynette Tyler

Kritin Sargent, John Morris, Christopher Morris, Regina Ehlert

Kathy Drake

Lauren Chorey

Lucy Ronning

Lurana Cancilla

Mark Vollmer

Michelle Aldabe and Andrew Bonfield

Sarah Clark

Scott Tregaskis

Timothy and Janet Steeper

Field Trip Director Update

Hilary Loupee

We have no scheduled field trips until the spring, but I encourage all of you to take advantage of mild weather days through the winter and get out there! If we do have some surprise warm weather, I might send out an email with a last-minute day trip to the opalized wood. I've been out there in the winter many times. It is an easily accessible location and in the winter there are less things to worry about like heatstroke and snakes.

I will warn against people heading alone to locations at elevation or remote locations in the winter. It is easy to get stuck where the roads have washed out or gotten wet with snow. We learned this year the value of travelling in a group, so try to make some rockhounding friend groups if you want to venture out. I, myself, rarely go anywhere with just one vehicle and I would never dream of going out alone.

Since I have no recent field trips to talk about, I will tell you all about the scariest desert encounter I ever had.....and no, it wasn't the crazy desert guy who threatened to shoot us 14 times....although that was a little scary as well!

Two summers ago, Eric Lundin and I were scouting the hills near Petersen Mountain to see if we could find any other sites for crystals. There are actually crystals all over; it's just about finding exposed pockets. We both work during the day but decided to run out right after. As it was summer, there was still a lot of light left for the day. We drove up some pretty winding and washed-out roads until we couldn't go any further, so we got out and started heading up.

As we climbed, we passed through an old claim with a bucket on a zip line. To set this up they must have been finding material. There were some tiny crystals around, but nothing of significance, so we kept heading up the very steep climb.

As Eric and I usually do, we split up to an extent to cover more area. We always stay within earshot, but we can't always see each other. There was lots of quartz on the ground, but I wasn't seeing much in the way of crystals. I disturbed what looked like a Peregrine falcon that flew off only a few feet in front of me. That was my first super cool encounter.

Only a few minutes later, something moved quickly to my right and a large bobcat bounded out of its hiding place in front of me. It ran down the hill we were on and up the hill across from me in less than a minute. That path would have taken me half an hour at least, but the cat made long graceful leaps as if crossing that terrain was effortless. It was as big as my German Shepherd, which surprised me greatly. I had always pictured bobcats as large housecats, maybe because a great uncle in Georgia kept a stuffed one by his fireplace and it was only twice as big as a housecat. That was my second super cool encounter.

Photos: Hilary Loupee





Eric and I met up on the top of one of the mountains we were climbing. We could actually see the flat, mined top of Petersen across from us. On our mountain, there was a state line post, which showed where Nevada ended, and California began. It was starting to get dark at this point, but because the hike had been so strenuous and not wanting to waste the effort getting to the top with nothing to show for it, Eric and I decided to split up and circle the top. This should have only taken 20 minutes or so and we would know if there were any obvious crystals around. I dropped down a bit and started to make my way counter-clockwise around the mountain, while Eric went clockwise. There was quartz, but no crystals. As I made my way around, the terrain quickly changed. The level ground became steep, and the sand turned to rock. I kept going, thinking that it was just an outcropping I needed to get past. I was hanging on to rocks and weaving through rock towers to keep going. The wind had picked up and I was walking into it. It wasn't howling, but it was enough to make hearing difficult.

As I squeezed through a narrow gap, I noticed something move about 10 feet in front of me. In a split-second flood of comprehension, I realized that the movement was a tail flicking and suddenly an enormous head rose and calmly looked over its shoulder at me. As the mountain lion realized that someone had entered its space, it leapt up with unimaginable speed and turned its entire body to me. It was probably 7ft long. I saw it crouch and was about to leap at me. I just reacted without time to think. I grabbed my backpack with one hand and ripped it off my back and started swinging it in front of me while trying to scream. To my horror, just like a nightmare, nothing would come out. Thankfully, a blood curdling scream finally escaped, and the lion paused. It was hissing at me but did not jump. A moment later, it jumped on a large rock to its side and looked back down at me. I took the opportunity to grab my rock hammer that was hanging out of my backpack. I could hear Eric yelling and running up the hill at me just as the cat turned and ran off.

I still have no idea how Eric got to me so fast, but things could have gone much worse if he hadn't. When he heard the scream, he thought I had fallen. He asked what had happened and I barely managed to say "cat." He wanted to know why I hadn't taken a picture!

We made our way quickly down the mountain in the dark, banging our rock hammers and checking our backs the whole way down. It was nerve-wracking. We stopped at a camp we had seen on the way in to warn a man and his dog about the mountain lion. Turns out he was a lifetime miner with some cool rocks to show us and Eric and I made a good friend that day. Randy and I still talk a lot and I see him out in the desert with his dog Sugar Bear.



My daughter thinks this story is hilarious, because of the part where I pulled out my rock hammer to possibly fight the mountain lion. I don't know what else I would have done. It was probably the most terrifying moment of my life. My brain was in overdrive with a million possibilities running through it, desperately searching for a way to save myself and live through the ordeal. Almost all the possibilities I imagined involved having my face or a limb ripped off, but maybe surviving. I still can't believe I made it out completely unscathed....but only because I wasn't alone out there. The things we go through for rocks!

Glimpses from the Past: Heart and Soul of RGMS

Alberta Carter

Alberta joined RGMS in 1981. Some of the positions/jobs she's held include President, Vice-President, Board-of-Directors at-large member, Social Director, Historian, Photographer, Lapidary Instructor and Open House Person. In addition she has been Exhibit Chairperson, Dealer Chairperson, Asst. Exhibit Chairperson and a Judge for our annual 'Jackpot of Gems' Show.



If you have any questions about working your stones, or how to exhibit, etc. she's one to talk to! Alberta has won many awards, including 6 CFMS trophies, 4 AFMS trophies, and Diamond Pacific's Best in Class award. At our 'Jackpot of Gems' Show she has won several Most Popular Exhibit awards.

THANKS ALBERTA !!

Submitted by John Peterson

Photo by Dale Sworthout

John Montgomery



John was a member of the Washoe Gem & Mineral Society when it combined with the Pyramid Gem & Mineral Society in 1965 to form our present Reno Gem & Mineral Society. I believe John is the only founding member of our Society that is currently

active.

He has held many positions/jobs with RGMS including President, Vice President, Board-of-Directors at-large member, Social Director, Asst. Show Chairman, Casting Instructor, Silversmithing Instructor, Show Judge Chairman and Building Director. John is there when there's work to do, Show to set up, etc.

THANKS JOHN!!

Submitted by John Peterson

Photo by Dale Sworthout

These little articles were part of a series called "Get to Know" that ran in *The Conglomerate* from 2013 through 2016. Most of the articles were written by John Peterson, and the photos taken by Dale Sworthout, though toward the end, Robin DeVisser took a few. We are fortunate to have Alberta and John with us still (John is 96!!) but, sadly, some of the others have passed on. And some who are still around aren't active any more. As 2024 wears on, I'll try to include some of those that you really need to know about or who are still around and active.—in no particular order.

Tree and Lights Gala, Nov. 18, 2023

**Stephanie Leonard, D. C.
Board Member at Large**



The Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. has taken the opportunity to support the local non-profit SAFE EMBRACE ORGANIZATION that was reaching out for sponsors and donations for their Gala. "The Annual Trees & Lights Gala serves as a fundraising effort to support local victims of domestic violence while supplementing funds for advocacy and education programs within the community.

Safe Embrace offers multiple services in northern Nevada including a 24-hour crisis response line, emergency relocation and housing, therapy and support groups and legal clinics and court accompaniment. The non-profit also offers sexual assault

support services, confidential shelter, Rapid Rehousing program, as well as the 86 Project for training of hospitality workers in identification and reporting of human trafficking or domestic violence.

In a typical year, Safe Embrace serves more than 30 individuals with evacuation transportation, hosts clients with nearly 200 emergency motel nights, and accompanies victims with an estimated 6,000 nights in the nonprofit's safe house."

Reaching out to individuals, businesses, and groups to partake in the design and donation of a Christmas tree or wreath to be auctioned at the Gala, (thus the Trees and Lights theme) the RGMS Board of Directors chose to assemble a gift basket of what we do best: rock collecting and jewelry making. I personally cannot give THANKS enough to our artisan members who generously gave beautiful handmade jewelry plus



the wire basket which set the color scheme, the cut and polished opalized wood, decorated tufa, cabochon, and a sparkly pink halite cluster. Befitting was a RGMS one-year single membership and plenty of brochures which tell of our Society and its perks.

I personally felt humbled to arrange all the gifts into the wicker basket and then deliver it to their location on Rock Blvd. Within days, I received a personal call from the executive director, **Afshan West**, who relayed enthusiastically the message of gratitude and overwhelm of the basket's contents. She herself has studied geology and so this donation holds a special connection.

Our RGMS donation baskets will sit on display at the GSR Annual Trees & Lights Gala, and may it bring forth funds for Their website for additional information is: safeembrace.org.



Cont. next page. Photos by Stephanie Leonard

With such generous donations from our members, not all the items were placed in this basket. Those remaining will be in the donation basket for next year's charity cause. Keep local charities in mind so generosity can be spread throughout our community and that will aid in RGMS public relations.

THANK YOU AGAIN, to all who contributed,

RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2023
Steve Norman, Secretary

These are the summarized notes. Contact me for the full report at secretary@renogms.org or find them on the clipboard near the office on a countertop

President: **Dean Sizemore** reminded the Board members to be polite and care for each other. Dean thanked Janet for taking over the General Meeting last week in his absence. He had a medical issue resolved after four days in Intensive Care! We all wish Dean good health.

Treasurer: **Janet Longueira** reviewed the September Financial Position as of September 30, 2023, and the Financial Statement of Activity for the September 2023 income and expense report. Janet discussed the membership dues and a gift for the Building fund. The University of Nevada, Reno scholarship is complete for 2023.

Membership: **Lynda Traves** reports 573 memberships, amounting to 1,015 members.

Conglomerate and AFMS/CFMS: Editor **Sue Webb** reminds members that articles are needed and are due on the 15th of the month. Sue would like to have some photos of recent field trips and add some text so readers get a bigger picture of what is going on. Sue reviewed her expenses for the CFMS meeting in Visalia, CA. She will ask questions that anyone has, but please email them to her. She will have a report of her findings.

Past President & Tech Chair: **Tom Nichols** is adding information regarding the upcoming Craft Fair. The volunteer online signup was a success. There have been no problems found in the process upon review. The new online volunteer form can be used for other projects, including the upcoming building project. Tom has a useful spreadsheet to track calendar events for the website.

Social Media: Director **Sven Sander** sent nine blasts to members in September. There were 742 page or video views on the RGMS Facebook page. There were 43 new people following the Facebook page, with 389 posts and comments.

Jackpot of Gems: Director **Dan Ellis** reports a good show. **Patrick Davis** has agreed to be in charge of Vendors next year, allowing **Terry Bush** to work with Dan as Show Director. Contracts will be going out next month. Dan announced that the Show will be at the Grand Sierra Resort next year! He and Terry have concluded a meeting with GSR and find that the carpeted space will save about \$4,000. It has free parking, and the space is double the amount compared to the Convention Center.

Social: Raffle:/LLC The Rock Building: **Debbie Bush** reports all raffle prizes delivered. Debbie noted the Christmas/Holiday party is on Saturday, December 2, starting at 5 p.m. with setup at 4 p.m. and done at 7 p.m. with clean up finished by 8 p.m. Sign up for the potluck at the next General Meeting and to help set up or clean up. She has some fun activities planned. Debbie plans a quarterly report for the status of The Rock Building.

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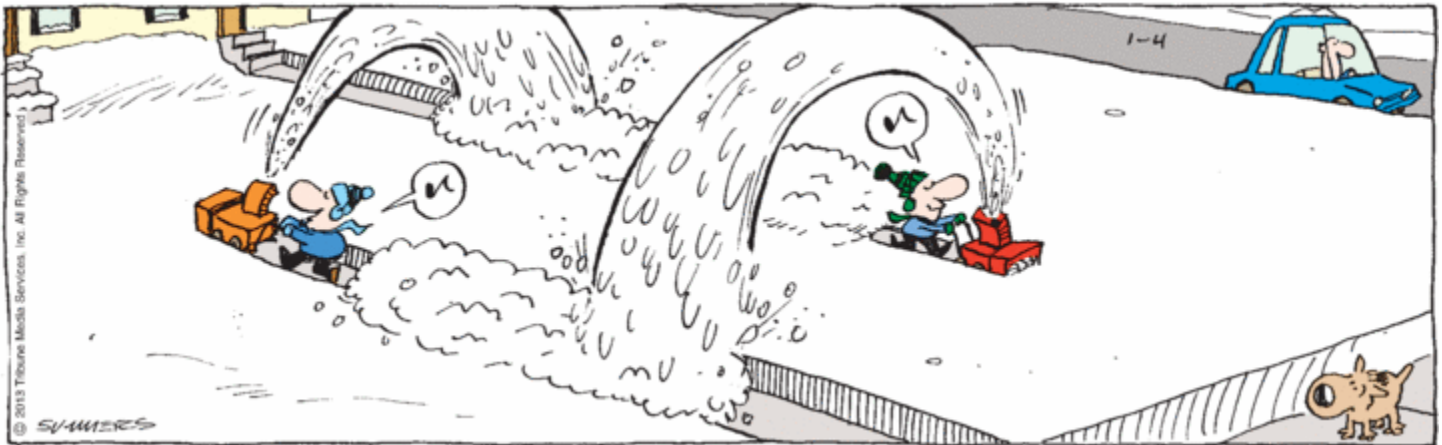
Door Prizes: **Denise Sizemore** reports that she will need wrapped gifts in December.

Schools/Building: Director **Julie Hilsabeck** has three Truckee Meadows Community College students for lapidary classes. The wire wrapping class is full. Advanced Silver smithing has some openings. The tumbling class is resuming. Julie has two Saturday classes for an all-day class for lapidary classes. Currently, five people have signed up for lost wax casting. There is an all-day Saw class on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mineral Identification scheduled for November 18. There is a new class with etching on copper that is upcoming.

Volunteer: Director **Wendy Kazas** announced that Brett Dedrick volunteered as Vice President, and his wife Gayle volunteered as a Board at Large member. There is a volunteer for the Public Relations position, **Kristin Gorton**. Hilary Loupee needs an assistant for Field Trips, and **April Young** needs some help with the Library position. **Theresa Langhans** has been doing the Craft Fair for many years and would like to retire.

Sunshine: Director **Joanne Sworthout** reported that **Vance Osborn** has some medical issues. **John Montgomery** and **Alberta Carter** were seen at a restaurant recently, so we hope they are doing well. **Wendy Kazas** reported an incident on a field trip in the Austin, NV area, where some new members spun and flipped their trucks. They are okay with some minor injuries. They both went home after being checked out at a hospital. Joanne needs some get-well or just blank cards that she can send out.

New Business: Vice President **Steve Smith** told the group that people on site rendered first aid and that Wendy made an incident report that **Dean Sizemore** has a copy. If anyone has questions or gets phone calls for information, refer them to Dean and don't discuss. Waiver forms need to be part of the membership application that is done yearly for members.



Cartoon: Creative Commons

Kid's Corner

Polymorphs

Steve Norman and Steve Rose

Polymorphs are minerals with differing crystal structures having the same chemical composition. The difference in the mineral depends on temperature and pressure as the mineral forms. Sometimes, there are overlapping physical and chemical conditions.



Figure 1: Optically Clear Calcite (left), Aragonite (right)

Rigaku.com

Several common minerals, such as Calcite and Aragonite, are good examples of polymorphism. Both are calcium carbonate but in the hexagonal and orthorhombic crystal systems. Calcite is one of the most common minerals to form under various physical and chemical conditions, including highly variable temperature and pressure conditions. Aragonite is much less abundant and yet made under less extreme conditions. For example, calcite formations in many caves make into stalactites or stalagmites, but many spectacular formations crystalize into Aragonite in near-surface temperature and pressure conditions.



Akaneearthspace scientist.asu.edu Diamond & graphite

Perhaps the most extreme examples of the process commonly known are the polymorphs graphite, a very soft, flakey mineral that is pure carbon in the hexagonal crystal system, and diamond, again, pure carbon but the hardest mineral found in nature. The highly variable conditions under which these polymorphs are comparable are in the Calcite/Aragonite relationships. Graphite forms in various geologic environments. Diamonds form deep in the earth under extreme pressure and temperature.



Etsy.om Magnesite and py-

Pyrite and Marcasite combine Iron sulfides, rutile, and Brookite. Titanium oxides are additional fairly common examples. Some mineral specimens appear to be polymorphs because of their physical appearance. For example, Gypsum is usually found as massive, off-color crystalline masses or beds but may be sharp, water-clear crystals known as Selenite. Gypsum and Selenite are the same, having matching chemistry and crystal systems, but they have different crystallization habits and are not considered polymorphic.

Submitted by Stephen Rose and Steve Norman

Pictures are Google search of pictures.

CFMS 2023 Convention
Visalia CA Nov. 11, 2023
Suzanne Webb, Federation Representative

The 2023 fall meeting of CFMS Officers and Chairs was held November 11 at the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia CA. which is the usual location for the Fall meeting.

Several items were addressed at the meeting that RGMS may have some interest in:

Officers for 2024 were elected: President—**Marcia Goetz** Whittier CA GMS; 1st VP and President Elect, **Heidi Hall**, Mason Valley GMS 2nd VP **Diane Cook**, Ventura, Treasurer **Bob Papac**, and Secretary **Frank Van Hecke**, El Dorado GMS. The officers were installed at the banquet that evening.

A nominating committee was elected: Chair **Susan Chaisson-Walblom**, D. **White**, N. **Bird**, C. **Churchill**, Nick **Xx** and **Glenn Fiala** as alternate.

After the Ventura GMS put on a skit to raise awareness of their upcoming show in May, **Jill and Gary Atkins** explained that Camp Paradise has been authorized for two weeks in 2024 in hopes that it can finish in the back this time. The Bulletin Aids Chair presented **Hilary Loupee's** national first place award for her article and **Jim Brace-Thompson** reported on what happened at the AFMS convention in Billings. He said the new website is just about ready, but if you want a preview of what it might look like, you could check out the new juniors site {Jim was pretty funny gussied up like a mermaid in the Ventura skit, by the way}.

There is a price break for rockhounds who belong to one of the CFMS affiliated societies—a 60% reduction in the annual subscription price. **Jim B-T** has the forms if you are interested. The chair for the All American Club competition reported that there were zero entrants this year. She has written an article for the CFMS newsletter about the contest (and reprinted in this issue); CFMS has a new webmaster. He is working on familiarizing himself with the current site and will be improving it in the coming months. **Sharon Rogow** asked for ideas to revitalize the Visual Programs offerings. There were only 3 requests for programs this year, and two of them were returned unused. The government has apparently been nosing around the area containing the geode beds with the goal of making it a national monument or attaching it to Joshua Tree park. If the latter, there will be no more hounding of the geode beds. **Bob Rush** suggested that membership chairs send a digital copy of all CFMS newsletters to all members. **Colleen McGann** pointed out that information on rules is in the December CFMS newsletter, and encouraged folks to display cases at the Ventura show in May. The Scholarship program selected three honorees this year--one from a university, one from a community college, and one from a society.. They are each to select an undergraduate to receive a \$2K scholarship. Pat LaRue distributed a tax guide for CA non-profits. However, it includes federal information. The website contest chair said that a new form for the contest will be posted soon



**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
THE 2023 ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK**

Diane Cook, CFMS Chair

IMPORTANT! – Deadline for entry in the CFMS contest is January 20, 2024. Please send your entry to me, Diane Cook @ johndianedaisy@yahoo.com by January 20, 2024 – and it will be judged at CFMS level, and the winners announced at the end of May at the CFMS-AFMS Show in Ventura.

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook, highlighting a club's activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, etc. - all these activities reflect an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone. The AACA awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due!. The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club, as well as an excellent tool to encourage prospective members. Canvassing members for any missing documentation, letters, flyers or other materials to fill in some gaps just might make the difference between a good club and a great Club Yearbook entry.

Take advantage of the guide that is on the AFMS site written by John Washburn. "An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation." This gives an explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book.

Remember – you can get credit for activities such as participation in Competitive Displays, Junior activities, and for club members volunteering as Judges for AFMS contests.

PDF entries are welcome as it saves a lot in postage. Page limit is 150 single pages for the pdf, and 100 double sided pages if printed. Scrap Books are great too!

Document your club's year for 2023 and send it to me no later than January 20, 2024. Hope to see lots of entries in 2024 – showing what your club did in 2023.

From the Dec. 2023 issue of the CFMS Newsletter

ED: Although it is too late for us to be planning a 2023 yearbook, it is the perfect time to plan one for 2024. Let's see someone take on that job —calling all you scrapbookers!! And all y'all start saving all those picture you took on field trips and at functions. Save the flyers and the ads. RGMS can do this! Why let puny little California clubs hog all the glory?

ALAA Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rock-hounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

RGMS Class & Shop List

Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

Classes Offered by RGMS

First, carefully read the blast sent the Tuesday before the meeting. Please respond via email to me, Julie Hilsabeck, at school@renogms.org, if you want any of the classes offered. Please indicate which class date and time you want. Many of the classes are limited to a maximum of 4 students. The list below shows the cost for each class and the frequency with which it is usually taught as well as the usual day of the week. Days may change from month to month, so rely on the blast.

Advanced Silver Fabrication

\$22.50 per class

Thursdays,

Beading \$20.00

1 Sunday/month 10:00 am to 2:00 pm ,
Materials should be available locally from The Bead Gallery , List available at Meeting.

Beginning Lapidary \$60.00

Tuesday
Saturday Full day

Beginning Silver Fabrication

\$120.00 -Rings

Tuesdays
Thursdays

Lost Wax Carving for Casting

A full weekend to be determined.

Mineral Identification \$60.00

plus \$25 kit fee

Occasional.

Open House \$7.50/hour of use

Mondays 11:00am to 9:00 pm
Thursdays 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Slab Saw Use \$60.00

Tuesdays
1 Saturday Full Day

Tumbling \$60.00

Tuesdays .

This is a general listing of RGMS classes that are typically offered. For specific dates, consult the calendar on the Website or talk to the school director at the General Meeting or email at <school@renogms.org>: Some classes are offered only occasionally.

Advanced Silver Fabrication
Beginning Silver Fabrication
Beginning Lapidary
Intermediate Lapidary
Beading and Bead Weaving
Casting”
Cold Connections
Etching on Copper
Jewelry 101
Lost Wax Carving
Mineral Identification
Making your own ear wires
Silver Crocheting
Silver Chain Making
Slab Saw Use Basics:
Tumbling:
Wire wrapping/weaving: ...

Desired additions to the list
when/if we can find a teacher:

Enameling (future)
Faceting (future)
Intarsia (future)

**CFMS/AFMS Shows
2023-2024**

Additional information is available on the CFMS website, cfmsinc.org/shows

December 2-3, 2023 – Barstow, CA

Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community/Fitness Center
841 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Contact: John Printz (760) 979-6138, MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com Website: <http://www.mdgms.net>

2024

January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson, (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-5PM

Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auctions, Grab Bags, Exhibits and hands on projects for kids. Admission \$6.00, Children 12 & under, scouts in uniform and Active Military Free. \$1.00 off admission with show flyer.

Contact: (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 24-25, 2024 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Show: We host vendors offering gems, geodes, fossils, raw rocks and minerals, carved stone animals, beads, findings and minerals from around the globe. The Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society invites you to discover lapidary and related crafts through our educational displays and live demonstrations. There is something for everyone, for crafters, jewelry lovers and science enthusiasts. We have a silent auction, geode cuttings, drawings for beautiful hand-crafted pieces and games of chance and discovery for kids!

Contact: (415) 254-1506, dduhonvgms@gmail.com Website: <https://vjgems.co>

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4PM

Dealers and exhibits, demos, gold panning, kids activities, raffle & silent auctions, Country Store an plant sale, free resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 60+ years.

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 8-10, 2024 – Victorville, CA (Stoddard Wells area)

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Stoddard Wells Tailgate. Take I-15 toward Barstow EXIT #157 stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to Tailgate. GPS 34.671852347,-117-117133037

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily 48th Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate. This annual event is Free to vendors and visitors.

Vendors offering slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, faceted and handcrafted jewelry, and lots of rough material. A family field trip to marble collecting site on Saturday from 9 A to 1 PM.

Contact: (760) 243-2339, president@vvgc.org Website: <http://vvgmc.org>



Officers

President:	Dean Sizemore	President@renogms.org
Vice President:	Brett Dedrick	Vicepresident@renogms.org
Secretary:	Steve Norman	secretary@renogms.org
Asst. Secretary:	Suzanne Webb	assistantsecretary@renogms.org
Treasurer:	Janet Longueira	treasurer@renogms.org
Asst. Treasurer:	Robyn Howard	assistanttreasurer@renogms.org
Past President	Tom Nichols	pastpresident@renogms.org

Board Members at Large

Eric Fendelander	Albie Longueira	Stephen Smith
Stephanie Leonard	Jim Wellker	Gayle Dedrick
	Tim Steeper	

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Shop:	Patrick Davis	
Social:	Debbie Bush	social@renogms.org
Sunshine:	Joanne Sworthout	sunshine@renogms.org
Tech Director	Tom Nichols (temp)	tech@renogms.org
Volunteers	Wendy Kazas	

Volunteer Page

A new feature in the *Conglomerate*, this space will feature those members who are not officers or directors but who regularly volunteer their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways, or sometimes in addition to serving as an officer or director. Please thank them for their service if you see them at the Rock Building or at the meeting. You will notice that some members serve in more than one capacity—for example, Steve Norman has 3 jobs—count ‘em. A number of others are doing 2. Think you might find time to do just one job? There are several available.

Used Equip, Sale Coord.
 Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter
 Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord
 Assistant Door Prize Coord.
 Educational Outreach
 Future Rockhounds Advisor
 JPOG Silent Auction
 Facility Expansion
 JPOG Dealer Chair
 Rock Bldg Leasing Mgr
 Safety Officer

Patrick Davis & Committee
 Joanne Sworthout
 Denise Sizemore,
 Lori Connel
 Steve Norman
 Steve Norman
 Renée Samuels
 Patrick Davis
 Terry Bush
 Juliet Hitchcock
 Spencer Ennis

Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

Bead weaving:
Casting:
Etching
Jewelry 101 &
Cold Connections
Lapidary

Lost Wax Carving
Mineral ID
Silver Fabrication (Adv.)
Silver Fabrication (Beg.)
Slab saw
Tumbling
Wire Art

Karen Boldi & Juliet Hitchcock
 Spencer Ennis
 Irene Comstock
 Robyn Howard
 “
 Julie Hilsabeck
 Barbara Hartman
 Tim Steeper
 Tom Calhoun/Webb Varnum
 Jill Atkins
 Spencer Ennis
 Patrick Davis
 Janet & Albie Longueira
 Ginger Ragazzi