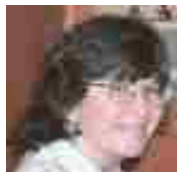




# CFMS NEWSLETTER

XLII #9

OCTOBER 2006



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want to thank the CFMS for the opportunity as President to attend the AFMS meeting and show held in August in Nashville, Tennessee. I got to visit the Country Music capital of America, collect quartz geodes in the hills of Tennessee, visit Mammoth Caves in Kentucky, purchase great local agate from show dealers, and visit with representatives from states in other regions. From reports provided at meeting, most of the regions are steady or growing in clubs and members. They are actively assisting their clubs to stay healthy.

Most important for AFMS is the need to have current club addresses for AFMS newsletter mailings and regional society roster books. Only if these are current early in the year can clubs benefit from the AFMS newsletter. Other indicators that AFMS is doing well: Scholarships are available for 2006, new winning programs will be added to our Video/Tape/CD libraries, display competition continues, judging seminars continue, bulletin competition was busy, and the All American binder competition is still low.

**HARVEST TIME.** Some define harvest time as the Fall months of the year. Time to bring in your vegetables to store or time to gather your club and individual activities, field trip notes and collected rocks and minerals from this year. Now is the time for the CFMS clubs to share with our own region. There are 119 clubs, I challenge all these clubs to attend the November Directors meeting. See you there. And your club can send update message to CFMS President before the meeting. What are your club accomplishments this year? Did your club or members donate to the CFMS Endowment or Scholarship funds? Did you choose your annual Rockhound of the year honoree? Did you participate in bulletin competition? Do you have ideas from your show that other clubs could use? Put together your clubs events into your yearly club scrapbook, which then becomes your All American award entry. Look through your programs, was there a special one to share with other clubs? With CFMS? Tell the CFMS Program Aids chair to follow up with

potential new programs. How to display your new rocks? Do you have photos of your friends or yourself collecting rocks on a field trip? Display these together. This can become your display at a future show or adding these to become your club display case at your annual show. Your club can also display items members have made during other workshops. This club display can be set up at your local libraries as publicity for your club. CFMS is always ready to act as your regional information source, via our website, a sharing point for club and regional information. Check that your clubs information is current and correct.

*Colleen McGann*

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# CFMS NEWSLETTER

October 2006

## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

The CFMS Newsletter is published eleven (11) times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$5.50 per year, Jan. through Dec. Not prorated.

## CFMS WEBSITE

CFMS is accessible at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). Web Master is Don Ogden. Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website.

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**TO REPORT A CLAIM:** Report claims as soon as possible to Patt McDaniel at 1 (800) 400-7288. If no one is immediately available, and/or during non-business and weekend hours, call 1 (800) 252-4670.

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## ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER DUE TO EDITOR BY 5th OF MONTH:

Pat La Rue, Editor  
P.O. Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657  
Email: [bplarue@earthlink.net](mailto:bplarue@earthlink.net)

## CFMS CALENDAR

Oct 28 Deadline for packet reports  
Nov 10-12 Fall Business Meeting  
Jun 15-17 CFMS Convention & Show

Officers and Committees: send me event dates and due dates to include in this section.

## ANYTIME

Send donations for CFMS Scholarship Fund to:

Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Send donations for AFMS Scholarship Fund to:

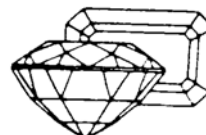
Sue Reeves  
PO Box 1899  
San Andreas, CA 95249

Send donations for CFMS Endowment Fund to:

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PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Send donations for AFMS Endowment Fund to:

Pat LaRue  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657



# CFMS NEWSLETTER

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## Fall Business Meeting Plans

The annual Fall business meeting and election of officers will be held November 11-13, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park, off Hwy 198 on W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA.

Room reservations at the Holiday Inn may be made by phone at (559) 651-5000. To receive the special rate of \$72 per night, you must tell them you are with CFMS. Cutoff date for the rate is 10/28/06. Add 10% room tax.

**Special note to those who prefer to bring their RV. The hotel still allows you to park in the large lot to the rear of the building. However the hotel will charge a one time fee of \$30 for the privilege. Pay this at the front desk of the hotel when you arrive.**

### MENU

#### Chicken Wellington

(boneless, skinless breast of chicken, fresh spinach and mushrooms tucked in a flaky puff pastry) OR Marinated thin sliced tri-tip w/ a Hunter style sauce

House salad w/ ranch and raspberry vinaigrette

Roasted Parmesan red potatoes

Italian style vegetables

Bread pudding

For the vegetarian—

Pasta Primavera (fettuccini pasta w/ assorted vegetables sauteed in garlic and olive oil)

House salad as above

Bread pudding

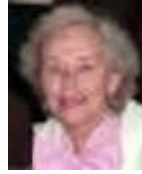
All entrees come with rolls and butter, coffee or tea service. Price \$25 (includes tax and gratuity). Make banquet reservations by October 31. Mail your check payable to CFMS and your entree selection to:

Pat LaRue

PO Box 1657

Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Committee meetings will be held in the Executive Conference Room. This will be a new location. Notify Dick Pankey of your needs. 1-4 pm on Friday afternoon is reserved for the Executive Committee.



## ALL AMERICAN CLUB

By Dot Beachler, Chair

Now that the AFMS 2006 show is history, we can announce the national judging results. Again, entries were down from 12 last year to 7 this year, and 4 Federations to 3 Federations. California and Texas tied for the most entries with 3 entries each. Of the 7 entries, 3 were in the large club category. California had 3 of the 4 entries in the small club category.

The California clubs entering the All American Awards program competition were:

Fossils For Fun

Roseville Rock Rollers

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society

All three clubs received silver awards.

Congratulations to all for a job well done.

---

### MEMBER RECOGNITION

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society wish to honor as our 2006 AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year, Larry & Donna Knapton. The Knaptons have been active members for years. They are always available when help is needed. The last few years they have put forth tremendous energy into our Education for Youth. Donna spends much time with ever patient Larry, presenting programs to the schools, scouts and wherever asked. During her classroom presentations she saw a need for rock sample kits with teacher detailed information. Their house is now a depository of stacks of lumber, boxes and rocks in various stages of construction. Their goal is to have a kit of 36 rocks in each of the 250 elementary schools in Ventura County! They hope to complete this endeavor in 3 years. Thus we recommend dynamos Donna & Larry for this award.

submitted by Miriam Tetreault, President OGMS



**SLIDE, VIDEO AND  
CD-ROM PROGRAM  
LIBRARY**

By Bill Gissler, Program Librarian

Thanks to the Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society, the Program Library has a new VHS to loan to clubs - # V-122 The OBSIDIAN TRAIL. The 30 - minute video is a production of the California Department of Transportation in association with Cinnabar Video and the Western Anthropological Research Group.

Under the shadow of Mt. Whitney lies California's Owens Valley, the deepest valley in North America. Archaeologists have been working here for thirty years recording petroglyphs, pottery, bone, wood, and stone tools in an effort to piece together the lifeways of the region's prehistoric inhabitants. With advances in the analysis of obsidian, archaeologists are taking a second look at what ancient arrowheads, points and flakes can tell them.

If your club comes across a good video tell us about it or better yet donate a copy to the CFMS library. This is one way to keep our library current with new, educational and enjoyable programs.

soon as the nuptials were concluded, my fossil collection was united with her rock tumbler (to both our parents' great relief), and we haven't been the same since.

Tumbling is a lapidary art that kids from 5 to 105 can enjoy and undertake with equally satisfying and beautiful results as they let the grit and electricity do the work. The primary skill comes in selecting just the right pieces of rough and then patiently monitoring the barrel and conscientiously checking and thoroughly cleaning between grits. It's a perfect group activity for introducing pebble pups to rock polishing and producing a nice pile that all the kids can enjoy and pick through for gems at the end of the process.

A fellow Ventura club member, Mel Hixson, recently directed my attention to a neat web site devoted completely to the rock tumbling hobby. It's called, appropriately enough, "Rock Tumbling Hobby," and its web address is [www.rocktumblinghobby.com](http://www.rocktumblinghobby.com). It includes a message board where members can exchange tips and ideas and seek trouble-shooting advice. (For instance, what's the best polish to use with Apache tears obsidian?) It also has a link for members and visitors to trade and a growing collection of photos showing people's favorite rocks.

But best of all, it has a section with step-by-step suggestions from how to begin (telling about equipment, accessories, and materials), how to choose your stones (with photos of finished stones to help you decide which type you'd like to polish), a complete description of how to complete a 4-phase project, pitfalls to watch out for, and "Top Tips" with little-known tricks of the trade.

If you haven't yet undertaken a rock tumbling activity with your club's kids, why wait? This noncommercial web site provides you with all the help you could ever ask for to get your kids started while—as always—having fun!



**JUNIORS ACTIVITIES:  
TUMBLING FUN**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors  
Activities Chair

Rock tumbling has often served as a gateway to the lapidary arts. I admit that I, myself, got hooked in just this way. My wife (who didn't know what she was getting herself into when she married a fossil nut, given that my collection was stored in my parents' basement several states away at the time) happened to have an old Sears tumbler her parents had given her as a Christmas gift when she was a child. She had played with it a couple of times, boxed it up, and promptly forgot it in her parents' basement. As

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## Serious CFMS Web Site Problems

By Don Ogden, CFMS Webmaster

In August, the CFMS Web Site went out of control and I could not fix it. I called the providers' TECH support, and after a **four-hour** conversation, I got an answer. Our site was placed on another server. They gave me the TECH's name and phone number for the new server.

The TECH said he was having a problem transferring the site to the new server. That he was changing the user name and password for the new server. At this time, the new server was NOW on the air with problems, and I was not able to access it to fix them. After about a week, he gave me the new user name and password. He also said that he had changed all the file extension to lower case.

The TECH appears to be the cause of the web site problem by: (1) not properly transferring the CFMS files to the new server, (2) by changing the file extensions to lower case, and (3) not giving me the new user name and password for about a week. When a link in text says go to an upper-case extension (.HTM), and the extension was changed to a lower-case extension (.htm), the links do not know where to go, and a blank page appears.

With the new user name and password, I have been spending a lot of time fixing the site. It's going to take a long time to fix all the glitches as they come up.

To make the HTML newsletter easier to read, the September newsletter has the following changes: font changed to Verdana or Arial - line-height to 150% (this means the space between lines is increased 1 1/2 times) - and other changes.

As usual, all comments are welcome and appreciated.



## Member Recognition

By Loretta Ogden

I want to thank all the clubs who have sent in a members name for recognition. I certainly hope that all the rest of you are sending me your clubs member this month. October is the last month I will be able to accept your member and be sure they will appear in the CFMS & AFMS Newsletters. Take this information with you to your next meeting and get this show on the road. Happy Holiday Season to you all.

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society nominates the Mother-Son team of Jo Burchard and Tom Burchard for Rockhound of the year. Jo has been the editor of our newsletter, the Petrograph, for the last 15 years of our 50 year club history, with Tom as the publisher. Both have been involved at the CFMS level teaching at Earth Science Seminars. Jo taught Ming Tree crafts at Camp Paradise. Jo hosts our annual summer picnic at her house where the club's rock collection is stored prior to our fall show. She leads frequent crafts workshops which often attracts new members, and is active in Board meetings and most club activities. She sorts and identifies rocks and minerals for the September Show and is our cashier. She and Tom have been past officers. Tom not only publishes our monthly newsletter, but mails it and keeps track of our mailing list. Tom taught lapidary for the last 8 years at both Zzyzx and Camp Paradise. This duo team is a prime example of the participation and dedication needed by clubs, as suggested by our club member and CFMS President, Colleen McGann, in the April CFMS newsletter.

Submitted by George Martin, Treasurer, PGGG





## SAFETY

By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety

A good many of our rockhounds are getting up in years. I know you have heard it all, but here is a little something to think about. We have stressed practicing safety for many years so I sure you do so. However, no matter how careful we are, there are always those accidents which just happen. If that accident happens to someone else while you are there, here are some things to keep in mind.

### **Warning Signs: Recognizing Signals of a Head, Neck or Back Injury**

Although head, neck and back injuries are only a small fraction of all injuries, they cause more than half the deaths. Each year, more than two million Americans suffer a head, neck or back injury. Motor vehicle accidents cause about half of these types of injuries. Falls, sports accidents and acts of violence are other causes.

### **When to Suspect Head, Neck or Back Injuries**

- A fall from a height greater than that of the victim or any fall by an elderly person.
  - Any diving mishap.
  - A person found unconscious for unknown reasons.
  - Any motor vehicle accident involving a driver or passengers where severe blunt force to the head or chest, abdomen or pelvic area is possible.
  - Any injury that penetrates the head or chest, abdomen or pelvic area, such as a gunshot wound.
  - Any person thrown from a motor vehicle.
- Any injury in which a victim's helmet is broken, including a motorcycle, bicycle, football or industrial helmet.
- An incident involving a lightning strike or other incident where the victim is thrown.
- Besides the causes of the injury, certain signals suggest head, neck or back injury.

Signals of head, neck and back injury include:

- Change in consciousness
- Severe pain or pressure in the head, neck or back
- Tingling or loss of sensation in the hands, fingers, feet and toes
- Partial or complete loss of movement of any body part
- Unusual bumps or depressions on the head or over the spine
- Blood or other fluids in the ears or nose
- Heavy external bleeding of the head, neck or back
- Seizures
- Impaired breathing or vision as a result of injury
- Nausea or vomiting
- Persistent headache
- Loss of balance
- Bruising of the head, especially around the eyes and behind the ears

If you suspect a person has a head, neck or back injury, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. While you are waiting for EMS personnel to arrive, the best care you can give is to minimize movement of the victim's head and spine. Do this by placing your hands on both sides of the victim's head. Position the head gently in line with the body and support it in that position until EMS personnel arrive. If you feel resistance as you try to do this or it hurts the victim, stop. If the head is sharply turned to one side, do not try to move it. Support the head as you found it.

Via Fall Issue 2003 The American Redcross **SafetyNET** To learn more, contact your local Red Cross chapter and enroll in a CPR and first aid course.

Source: National Spinal Cord Injury Association, 2000. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER FOR COURSES AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA (<http://www.redcross.org/where/where.html>) or enter your zip code in the "Find Your Local Red Cross" box on the front page of Redcross.org.)

## CFMS NEWSLETTER

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### Bulletin Contest

By Terry Yoschak, Bulletin Aids Chair

For Bulletin Editors who are interested in entering this year's Bulletin Contest, please read the following information carefully.

Only bulletins published from January 2006 to December 2006 will be considered for this contest.

The contest is open to all Editors in the CFMS. There are several different bulletin categories in which to enter. Editors should also submit appropriate articles (which have been published in 2006 bulletins) from individual club members. There are several categories: Adult articles, Junior articles, Adult Advanced articles, Poems, etc.

The rules and entry forms will be published in the October CFMS newsletter and will be on the CFMS website (cfmsinc.org) under "Forms." Deadline for all entries is December 9, 2006. (No exceptions.)

The winners of the contest will be announced at the 2007 Federation Show, June 15-17, in Lancaster, CA, sponsored by the Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club.

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### BE KIND TO YOUR DEALERS

By Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President-elect

I recently attended a show, and read about another one that had many dealer and very few customers. Result: Many of the dealers did not cover their expenses. Oh, they might have covered their dealer's fees. Better yet they might have covered their dealer's fees and their production costs; but when the customers aren't there, they don't cover their transportation, lodging, or food that are necessary expenses for them to attend the show. Result: They lose money, it costs them more to attend the show than they take in. In short, they could have saved money by staying home.

The dealer's fees are what make a show happen. Their fees cover the rent, the advertising, and some of the miscellaneous expenses. But they need sales to be able to exist.

The rockhounds at the show are primarily interested in raw materials as opposed to finished pieces.

Whether it be faceting rough, minerals, cabbing material or jewelry supplies, most rockhounds already have extensive collections and are only looking for something that is exceptional or unusual. They do a lot of looking, but not a lot of buying. The dealers, therefore, need to have a large number products that are aimed at sales to the general public. Inexpensive things for the children, and medium to high quality goods for the adults—at a substantial savings over the local jewelry store. Thus, most of their sales are aimed at the public that comes through the front door.

But, if for whatever reason, the public does not come through the front door, the dealers go home hungry. And, if they lose money over a couple of years, they are not likely to come to your show again.

I have painted a bleak picture, How can it be improved?

Show committees need to be more realistic, rather than optimistic, about the number of people who will come through the front door. Each person has only a limited number of dollars that can be spread among the dealers. The larger the number of dealers, the thinner is the spread.

Keep good records of the number of people that come through the front door. Canvas the dealers to see how they did, and what kind of items were their biggest sellers. Get an estimate of the dollars that came through the door and plan the next year's show accordingly. Tet the number and type of dealers down to the point where they can all make money.

Remember, without dealers, your show cannot exist.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Sept 2006



## CFMS NEWSLETTER

October 2006

### THE TRONA PINNACLES

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** However it may appear to you, a visit to the Trona Pinnacles will be a journey into one of the most unusual geologic wonders in the California Desert. This unique landscape consists of more than 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) pinnacles rising from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake basin. These tufa spires, some as high as 140 feet, were formed underwater 10,000 to 100,000 years ago when Searles Lake formed a link in an interconnected chain of Pleistocene lakes stretching from Mono Lake to Death Valley.

The Trona Pinnacles were designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark in 1968 to protect one of the nation's best examples of tufa formation. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management to protect its scenic values and has become a popular filming location for movies and commercials.

#### PHOTOS from the Trona Pinnacles



**GETTING THERE:** The Trona Pinnacles are located approximately 20 miles east of Ridgecrest. Access to the site is from a BLM dirt road (RM143) that leaves SR 178, about 7.7 miles east of the intersection of SR 178 and the Trona-Red Mountain Road. The 5-mile long dirt road from SR 178 to the Pinnacles is usually accessible to 2-wheel drive vehicles; however, the road may be closed during the winter months after a heavy rain.

**PLANNING YOUR VISIT:** The Trona Pinnacles are located at around 2,000 feet above sea level in the Western Mojave Desert making it an ideal place to explore in the fall, winter, and spring months. Visiting the site in the early morning and evening is especially dramatic as are nights with a full moon.

Summer temperatures often exceed 115°F at the Trona Pinnacles, so if you plan on visiting in the summer try the early morning or evening hours. Bring plenty of water (at least 2 gallons of water/person), and if you do not have 4-wheel drive, stay out of the sand washes. Quite a few cars have been stranded in the wide sand wash that divides the main Pinnacles group.



A network of dirt roads wind throughout the site and provide numerous vantage points from which to view and photograph the Pinnacles. A .50-mile hiking trail leads into the heart of the Pinnacles for a close-up view of these spires and the surrounding desert environment. The hike is not difficult, but you should wear sturdy shoes.

Primitive camping is permitted at Trona Pinnacles and campers are encouraged to use existing campsites and fire rings and to pack out all trash. If you plan on having a campfire, bring your own firewood. Camping is limited to 14 days.

The only development of any facilities is a vault type toilet. There are no other services at the Pinnacles.

Operate your motor vehicle and mountain bike on existing routes to protect this fragile place. Cross country travel will destroy vegetation and create scars on the landscape that may take years to heal.

Shooting is prohibited at the Trona Pinnacles to ensure the safety of other visitors.

Remember to practice Leave No Trace principles:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

Pack It In Pack It Out

Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

Leave What You Find

Minimize Use and Impact of Fires



To view the on line article go to <http://www.blm.gov/ca/ridgecrest/trona.html>

Submitted by John Martin – Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club [pgmc@antelecom.net](mailto:pgmc@antelecom.net)

PLAC South

# CFMS NEWSLETTER

October 2006

## TRUTH & SOME CONSEQUENCES

By Jon Spaunagle, AFMS Conservation & Legislation  
Chair

On July 24 and 25, 2006 the US House of Representatives passed several wilderness bill designations by voice vote. They passed unanimously. One of the Bills has a similar Bill already passed by the US Senate which means its passage by congress is very likely. The others need to gain support in the US Senate if they are to pass Congress. There is no indication about the President's attitude on any of these Bills, but it seems likely that the President would sign them rather than veto them if they arrive on his desk, given his reluctance to use his veto power.

The Bills passed by the US House:

HR 233 "Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Act which would designate 277,000 acres in Northern California as wilderness. The Bill numbers are HR 233 passed in the US House on 7/24/2006 and S 128 passed year earlier in the US Senate on 7/26/2005. The House passed bill has been placed on the calendar of the US Senate for a vote. It would normally be passed easily and sent to the President for signature.

HR 3817, "Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act" which designates 77,200 acres in seven separate parcels in the Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon as wilderness. This Bill has been sent to the US Senate for consideration. There are no similar or related Bills in the US Senate on this proposal and it is not known how the two Oregon Senators view this Bill. The House passed bill was referred to the US Senate and sent to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

HR 3603, "Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act", would designate 315,215 acres as wilderness in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests as well as convey several parcels of BLM and National Forest land to the counties and cities of Idaho. NO related Bills have been introduced into the US Senate, nor do the two Idaho Senators seem to favor much of this legislation.

HR 3817, "Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005". Though not specifically a "wilderness bill" this Bill would withdraw 101,794 acres in the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest (New Mexico) from (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and (3) operation of laws pertaining to mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials. It does not, however add these acres to the National Wilderness system. The House passed Bill was referred to the US Senate and sent to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

Both the Idaho and the Northern California areas are likely to have hobby materials within their borders. We suggest you contact your Senators to advise them how you feel about these designations.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS P.L.A.C. SOUTH

### Ridgecrest Steering Committee Meeting

**Event Description:** The public is invited to attend this Information Sharing meeting discussing what BLM is doing with land use planning, recreation, wild horse and burros, and more.

**Time:** 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Dates:** September 28, 2006  
October 26, 2006

**Location:**  
Ridgecrest Field Office  
300 South Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Contact:**  
Loretta Pedersen  
(760) 384-5400  
[lpederse@ca.blm.gov](mailto:lpederse@ca.blm.gov)  
**Field Office:** Ridgecrest

### Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Monument Advisory Committee meeting

**Event Description:** Advisory meeting begin at 9:00 am, Public comment period is scheduled to begin at 11:00 am. All meetings are open to the public.

**Dates:** September 9, 2006  
December 2, 2006

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** Palm Desert City Hall Council Chambers  
73-510 Fred Waring Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

**For more information, call:** (760) 251-4800  
**Field Office:** Palm Springs



# CFMS NEWSLETTER

October 2006

“The following article was written in 1978 by Joe Meade as a President’s Message for the Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club. It is just as fresh and current today as it was then. Perhaps it will give you something to remember when you are asked to do a job or help out at a club function...or, do you believe that you, too, belong to **A MAGIC ROCK CLUB?**”

Once upon a time, in a beautiful valley, there was a magic rock club, or at least many of its members thought it was. Why did they think so? Because many strange and wondrous things happened in their club. After all, they only had to bring themselves to the club meeting once a month, and they found at the beautiful meeting hall their chairs all lined up neatly for them, the place ablaze with light, the big coffee pot perking away, the cookies and many other delicious “goodies” all set out and ready for them. The microphones were all hooked up and buzzing quietly, and the President, Secretary and Treasurer’s tables all set up. It was indeed wondrous. The members need only to sit down, and soon they were told all the bills had been paid, correspondence answered, and problems solved. They were brought up to date on what was happening, not only in their area but something called “The Federation” always took care of defending their favorite collecting areas. They didn’t know much about this “Federation”, but they did know somebody in their club always looked out for their interests and they were content.

This indeed was a wondrous club as there was hardly ever anything to argue about during the short pesky thing they called the “business meeting”. Somehow the problem, whatever it might be, was solved whether they paid attention to what was happening or not. After all, if they all said “Aye” to whatever motion was being made, and they all always did, they could gripe about it later when they really found out what they had voted on.

Anyhow, they were anxious to get on to the rest of the meeting that they liked so well, like the passing out of beautiful and wondrous pieces of gemstone or finished jewelry as door prizes. Though

many had been members for years, they were not sure exactly where these prizes came from, but it was probably more magic since they always appeared.

But that was not all, as some liked the “committee reports” because some of them were really interesting. They could find out about a forthcoming field trip; find out how much money their club had in the bank; find out what the next program would be; about the latest news on their big annual show; and many other interesting thing. During the parts they were not interested in they could always talk to their neighbor, but if anyone talked during the part that they were interested in, they could always shush them.

But the best part was when they could have all the goodies and crunchies and hot tea or coffee that was ready for them. Then they could visit with their friends and enjoy the program that was always something interesting. There were film, there were slide, there were knowledgeable speakers, there were bingo games for gemstones, there were “silent auctions” where slabs of gemstone from the four corners of the world could be had for a few pennies, and there were picnics and pot-lucks. Many were only vaguely aware of how these things came about, but after all, wasn’t it a magic rock club?

Ah, it was indeed a fortunate thing to be a member of this club many members felt. The telephone would ring, and they would be told of anything of interest to them regarding the club. They all knew that if a member was ill, flowers, cards and messages from their club would appear to express their concern for them. If they wanted to go on a field trip, and many did, the location was already surveyed for them, and they knew what gems they might find, how to find them, what they looked like, whether they could park, what to bring and everything they needed to know.

Not only did many members feel lucky to be a part of a magic rock club, but they were also proud! After all, didn’t they often see their club mentioned in the newspaper, hear it discussed on the radio, and wasn’t it always a feature of the Fair? People would come from far

and near to ooh and aah at the beautiful gems in the cases with their club’s name on them. Many never even bothered to go see for themselves, as they knew that the cases would always appear at the appointed time. The building would be available; the kitchen would be clean, the electric wiring would like up and test itself; the big heavy tables would march into place; and a 1001 other things would somehow happen whether they were there or not.

But that was not all! Every month a newsletter would suddenly appear in their mailbox. This was really a wondrous thing. Many were amazed at how the news, articles of interest, and other things would assemble themselves, type themselves, run themselves through reproduction, staple, address, stamp and mail themselves too! The members knew that if they had not paid attention or even come to the last meeting, everything that happened would be in their club paper.

However, there was one long standing mystery in this magic rock club that had never been solved by any President or Chairman.. This was the strange thing that happened every time the word volunteer was mentioned! Practically the whole membership would suddenly find something immensely interesting on either the floor or the ceiling and commence to gaze intently at them for long periods of time. However, there were always certain members who knew there was really nothing there to see, just as they had learned the truth about Santa Clause long ago, so one of them would say “I volunteer” and immediately the other members lost interest in whatever had intrigued them about the floor or ceiling.

If you really want to know the real secret of this magic rock club, you can find the name of nearly all the magicians listed on the inside of the cover of your magic (substitute your club name) newsletter. Of course all are not listed there, because many of them have quietly and unheralded “made things happen”

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