



The Rockette

NOVEMBER 2016

A Publication of the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)

P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

Great Send OFF!!!

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting and to send our President, Carol Corden, on her way for a big move to Las Vegas. I understand that she might start a new career as a showgirl on the Vegas Strip! We all know she will be happy living with her son and his little family in their new home. Now she will certainly be able to have enough time with her grandson, Adam! Keep in touch, Carol! You've been a gem



and a wonderful President to our club. You will be missed. Thank you for your energy, kindness, positive attitude, determination and hard work.

Preston had a lovely plaque created for the occasion.

SGMS Mission Statement

The Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society serves the community by providing education in the Earth Sciences and training in the lapidary arts and, in doing so, promotes ethical behavior, sound resource stewardship, and good fellowship. The Society fulfills its mission through year-round offerings of field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.

Member of:

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
North Bay Field Trip Association

Exchange bulletins are welcome. You are free to reprint if credit or citation is noted.

Word Finder Puzzle!

E V L S
R E H I
A O N T
N D R I

Find at least 6 elements in this grid of letters

(answers at end)

=====

RECAP ON THE OCTOBER MEETING:

Bingham Canyon Mine Presentation

Preston Bingham was our speaker for the evening. We learned about the Bingham Canyon Mine, located near Salt Lake City, Utah. It is the world's deepest man-made open pit excavation. The mine is 2.75 miles (4,5km) across and 0.75 mile (1,2km) deep. Since mining operations started in 1906, Bingham Canyon Mine has been the granddaddy of all copper mines. When you're talking about the actual size of the mine, Bingham Canyon is simply the largest copper mine in the USA. If the mine was a stadium, it could seat nine million people. The trucks to haul the ore are two stories high and the wheels alone are 12 feet high and are replaced every nine months.

Bingham Canyon is primarily a copper mine, but it has also yielded a wide range of byproduct metals. These include 620 tons of gold, 5,000 tons of silver, 276 tons of molybdenum and large amounts of platinum and palladium. The Kennecott mining company extracts approximately 450,000 tons of rock out of the mine daily. With these production statistics, it's no wonder that the Bingham Canyon Mine has been nicknamed "the Richest Hole on Earth." The value of metals produced yearly at Bingham Canyon is US\$1.8 billion dollars.

If you happen to notice a familiar name—you might presume this mine was started by a relative of Preston's...and you would be correct! The canyon was first settled in 1848 by two Mormon pioneers, Thomas and Sanford Bingham. These two brothers had been sent to the area by Brigham Young, who requested that they take a herd of horses and cattle up to the high land around the main canyon. They also spent their time in prospecting for valuable minerals. Some ores were found but the Bingham's were advised by Brigham Young not to engage in mining at that time. The policy of the Mormon Church discouraged mining because all available labor was desperately needed to produce the necessities of life. There was also the fear that mining would attract non-Mormons from out of state and have a degrading effect upon those who engaged in it. Preston's great-grandfather went on to have 36 children and 3 wives. A plaque was placed at the mine in 1949 to honor the family and Preston was in attendance with his father.

Preston brought several copper specimens to the meeting, all very unusual and beautiful. Thank you for the informative presentation enjoyed by many!
For more information you can take a virtual tour of the mine by clicking on this link:
<http://www.kennecott.com/virtual-tour>

=====

NEW MEMBER

Welcome Allen Hodges to our club! (You'll read more about him in a future Rockette) He has generously volunteered to become our Field Trip Coordinator! Allen has a lot of ideas about where we might be able to go, so stay tuned!

=====

WOW!

We had news that Chuck Trantham fell ill while on a rockhounding trip. He is now on the mend after heart surgery. You can ask him for the details. We sent a card and everyone at the meeting was able to sign it.

After a long illness, Paul Rose's father passed away. Paul and Jo-ann were able to share the duties to keep his father (as well as his mother, who passed away earlier in the year) at home. A more devoted pair you'll not soon find.

=====

SGMS Board Members and Committees

During the duration of the year, Bob Simms will be the President, taking over the position from Carol Corden. We will be having elections for new officers and Committee chairs. There is so much you could be involved with! Please consider sharing your time and talent with the club. Every one of the positions are open, but we really need leadership from those willing to step up:

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Club Show Chairperson
Sunshine	Editors and Writers
Publicity	Membership
And MORE!!	

Open positions: There are a lot! If you want to be part of the leadership in this club, please do! All positions are open! What is your strength? Add it to the group! If you don't want to have a particular position, consider being part of a committee! We need you!!!!

Answers to the Word Finder puzzle:
Tin, Lead, Iron, Neon, Silver, Radon

=====



A Collection of Rocks

Since last month's article, a few people have been telling me where they keep their collections. Some just leave the rough materials outside in the garden and grab a stone to cut and polish when they can. Others have built walls, like Larry and Jaynie Schemel. "We have a wall in our backyard made of columnar andesite from our family cattle ranch. We display other rocks on top. Shown are: serpentine and jadeite from Clear Creek, Stone Canyon jasper, granites and quartz

from the Mother Lode, and Indian boiling stones."

Bookcases and curio cabinets are a common showcase of specimens. AND I heard a lot of people tell me that the garage is the best place. Cathy Phalan has an adorable little shed in her back yard. It doubles as a workspace.

The next question...once you finish with your lapidary creation, what's next? Are you making anything with them? Selling them? Let me know!

=====

Membership Dues are Due!

Please bring a check to the next meeting made payable to SGMS or send to our PO box. **They are: \$25 individual, \$40/couple in same household, kids free.** Make checks payable to the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society. OR Send a check to: Membership, P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064. Please review the membership list to make sure we have your correct information. If you've made a change over the past year, then it might not be in the system. If you have not paid your dues you will not be able to attend any field trips...and there are many in the works!

=====

SGMS AND PGGG Christmas Party!!!!

Do you want to help plan the Christmas party? It will be held in conjunction with the PGGG at our usual meeting location, the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City on Friday, December 16. Set up at 4, festivities begin at 5. Paul Rose will be cooking something scrumptious and everyone else is asked to bring a dessert, salad, appetizer or side dish. The Bingo game will be fun and it's always nice to talk to like-minded folks in our clubs. Once again, members will be given the opportunity to have a table space and sell their wares. There were a lot of wonderful items! Email catherinef@fraseradv.com to volunteer and to RSVP. Guests are welcome!

=====

The PGGGS Show

Hope you attended this show in October. There, you might have seen the display case boasting pictures of students and instructors at the lapidary shop we jointly share. There was also a great array of finished pieces displayed, from cabochons to finished jewelry and even a pestle for crushing herbs to make Mojitos. Thanks to our contributors: Sally, Larry, Steven, Catherine, Marilyn, Sergio, Jaynie, Steve, Marty, Michael, Cathy, Sonja and Beth.

Events and Items of Interest:

=====

USGS Evening Public Lecture November 17 @ 7:00 PM
Rambo Auditorium/Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park

Ecological Stressors: It's a Lot of 'WERC'

There is no place like California

by A. Keith Miles, Center Director, USGS Western Ecological Research Center

Wildlife, drought, sea level rise, Endangered species, species of concern
Alternate energy, urbanization, species connectivity

=====

A Great Place to Spend Your Money!

The Palo Alto Open jewelry and ceramic studios are having a sale of items on November 19 & 20. Hours: 10-4, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto
Some very nice one-of-a-kind Christmas or other gifts can be found!
For more info call 650-329-2366

=====

Rock Sale in Scott's Valley

This weekend!

November 12 9am - 2pm 107 Dell Way, Scotts Valley
No reasonable offer refused What's for sale? GIA book set,
Agates, Jaspers, Plasma agate, Brazilian agate, Graveyard point plume agate,
Poppy jasper, Whale bone, Thundereggs, Rainbow obsidian,
Petrified wood, and so much more. 250+ milk crates full of rock.

Thanksgiving Field Trip

Black Butte Lake & Stony Creek, West of Orland, CA
November 24 to 27, 2016

Host Club: Contra Costa M&GS / An NBFT Field Trip

Meeting Location: Buckhorn Campground. The Buckhorn Recreation Area is a fee use area managed by the Army Corp of Engineers. There is a \$4.00 Day Use Fee or \$20.00 per night for camping. Please self-register as you enter on Buckhorn Road. Have exact change. We will meet each morning at 8:45AM to review plans for the day and leave to the collecting sites at 9:00AM **SHARP**.

Collecting Sites: Buckhorn Lake and Stony Creek.

Material: Colorful jasper, agate and occasional petrified wood. Bright colors, sometimes poppy jaspers, often brecciated, reds, yellows predominant, but green, and variegated combinations are common, too.

Please call (925-439-7509) or e-mail, preferred, (dickpankey@juno.com) to let me know you plan on coming and when you expect to arrive, and will you attend and what you plan to bring to the potluck. This will help to plan dinner and the area we need for our camp.

Dates of SGMS meetings for 2016:

Next meeting dates: Nov. 21 December 16 is the Christmas party in lieu of a program

Meeting dates for 2017 will be firmed up over the month, so stay tuned!

Unless specified, the meetings will be held at the usual place, The Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society holds its General Meetings from 7-9pm on the third Monday of the month (with exceptions for holidays, or during July and December). Each meeting features a presentation, raffle drawings for specimens, a member Show & Tell, and access to the club library. **Guests are welcome to join us!**

Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062

=====

If you are interested in providing material for our next newsletter, please contact your editor. If you have anything for sale that would be of interest to our club members, you can post that here too!

Your name can be on the list below!!! Get more involved with your club!!!! We need your input!!!

ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	OPEN POSITION		
Vice President	Bob Simms	650-222-0968	loomisites@netscape.net
Annual Show Chairs:	OPEN POSITION	and Bob Simms	
Web Mistress:	Valerie Concello	650-369-9539	vconcello@gmail.com
Treasurer:	OPEN POSITION		
Federation Director	Paul Rose	650-302-6684	1sarose@comcast.net
Alternate Federation Liaison	Catherine Fraser	650-954-6020	catherinef@fraseradv.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Allen Hodges		
Monthly Programs –everyone!!!	Send suggestions to	cordencarol@yahoo.com	
Outside Exhibits	Cathy Phalen, Paul Rose		
Membership	OPEN POSITION		
	Marty Krikorion		
Sunshine, Ways & Means,	Cathy Phalen	650-365-2956	catphalen@comcast.net
Cases, Storage, Library, Lapidary	Shop Manager, Auctions/Estates, Refreshments		
Magazines, Historian/Awards--	Preston Bingham	650-368-6351	preston.bingham@att.net
Rockette Editor/Publisher,	Catherine Fraser	650-954-6020	catherinef@fraseradv.com
Advertising			