



# The Rockette

JUNE 2017

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

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

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

## JUNE 19 is our next meeting.

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

We will be seeing very informative videos from Gary Parsons. The title of the video is: **A QUICKSILVER MINE**: by Shirley R. Ward, FPSA, PPSA. The video is narrated by Shirley Ward, wife of New Idria's Geologist and Mine Manager, Mark Ward. It's about the town, cinnabar mine, and mill, located in hills of San Benito Co. Also a short video entitled: **New Idria fire 7.29.10**, also by Shirley Ward. It's about the New Idria fire of July 29, 2010.

If anyone has anything rock related they might like to sell, please come early to set up some table space at the meeting. Also if you have a "show and tell" we'd love to experience it! Remember that our Raffle tickets offer valuable opportunities for obtaining good materials. 5 tickets for \$1. Proceeds go to the shop! Will also be selling good rocks!

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## Potluck Event with PGGs in May

A very nice evening of old and new friends, great food and the usual fun Rock Bingo. Many of the PGGs members are also SGMS members.

### 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.

# America the Beautiful - National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands

## Senior Pass

- \$10 Lifetime pass
- For U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over.
- May be obtained in person at a federal recreation site or through the mail using the application form.
- Provides entrance or access to pass owner and accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle at Federal operated recreation sites across the country.
- Photo identification may be required to verify ownership.
- Passes are **NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE**, and **cannot** be replaced if lost or stolen.
- The cost of obtaining a Senior Pass through the mail is twenty dollars (\$20). Ten (\$10) for the Senior Pass and ten (\$10) for processing the application. Applicants must provide documentation of age and residency or citizenship. If you cannot order a Senior pass online, you can submit a **Paper Application** by mail to the USGS using the paper application and enclosing the same documents and \$20 fee
- May provide a 50 percent discount on some amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services
- Generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners.
- Obtainable through the USGS site. Look there for more information
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- **If you haven't reached the age of 62 you may obtain an Annual Pass for \$80**

## MAKER'S FAIRE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped create a successful event for the Maker's Faire. We had people representing SGMS – Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society, SFGMS – San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society, GMSCV - Gem and Mineral Society of Castro Valley, SCVGMS – Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, BAM – Bay Area Mineralogists. People were busy creating a zillion pre-form cabs, helping to set up, tear down and assist the throngs of people with their polished rocks. We also had a donation bucket set out and raised well over \$400 to be spent on replacing parts for the flat laps.





All of the volunteers had a great time. Paul Rose (pictured at left) manned the wheel. It was neat to see the faces on young and old alike when they went away with a rock they “polished all by myself” in a magnet form, a necklace or just as a pocket rock to hold or add to their own collection.

We give a very large and special thanks to Leslie Gordon for taking charge of this event. It really is a show piece event for our clubs and our passion. New people may join our clubs or want to get involved at the lapidary shop due to their exposure at the Maker Faire.

The people were SO excited to be there, even though the line was long. I asked a few people what their favorite exhibit at the Faire was and they all said it was ours! Second was the wood-burning group who brought quite a few young and enthusiastic people all the way from Michigan to have a booth. That was amazing. They happened to be right across from us and looked very busy.

For some volunteers it was their first time staffing the event. Susan Abellera said, “Michael and I had so much fun talking to children and their families about different minerals and lapidary arts. What a fun way to get individuals of all ages interested in our hobby!”

“Many thanks for the invite to participate. It was a very rewarding experience and you organized it very well with a great team. Very enjoyable and look forward to additional events.” Bob Kozak

Leslie stated, “Thank you all so much for your contributions to the great success of our exhibit/activity booth at Maker faire this weekend. I hope you had as good a time as I had. If you did, you're probably exhausted as well.

It took so many of you to contribute the 1000 preformed cabs we used at the fair, and the dozens of you who spent time staffing the activity over the weekend. I really appreciate your contributions and dedication to this outreach event. I'm sure we inspired more than a few future rockhounds or rock enthusiasts.”

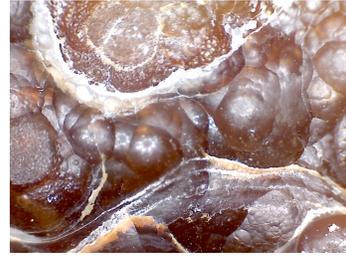
|                     |
|---------------------|
| 1. Susan Abellera   |
| 2. Peter Adams      |
| 3. Simon Bowers     |
| 4. Nancy Davidson   |
| 5. Catherine Fraser |
| 6. Victor Gassmann  |
| 7. Leslie Gordon    |
| 8. Steve Jobe       |

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|--------------------|
| 9. Oliver Juang    |
| 10. Bob Kozak      |
| 11. Jennifer Olsen |
| 12. Sonja Lobhan   |
| 13. Joann Maese    |
| 14. Barb Matz      |
| 15. Ben Nagler     |
| 16. Michael Nelson |

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|------------------------|
| 17. Cathy Phalen       |
| 18. Melissa Pocek      |
| 19. Paul Rose          |
| 20. Bob Simms          |
| 21. Mindy Yuan         |
| 22. Ventsislav (Vince) |
| 23. Marty Krikorian    |

## Close ups!

Peter Adams sent this lovely image of a piece of unpolished fire agate. It was taken with his hand-dandy microscope. Oh so pretty.



## EVENT:

USGS Public Lecture June 22 at 7 located at the Menlo Park Campus.  
Tom Suchanek

The Effects of Climate Change: A Scientific Pathway Forward

## News from the USGS:

The U. S. Geological Survey is poised to bring a dynamic array of science and tools to help decision-makers manage and offset effects of increased drought across the United States, according to a drought plan report released today.

The Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) incorporates satellite observations of vegetation to monitor at a finer spatial detail than other commonly used drought indicators. (USGS, Public domain.)

The USGS is collecting data at hundreds of sites on rivers and streams in six western states to document the 2015 drought. USGS scientists will analyze the data to identify which rivers and streams may be most vulnerable to future droughts.

Human population growth, which exacerbates land- and water-use issues, and a warming world, mean that more frequent and severe droughts are scientifically forecasted to occur in many U.S. regions. Consequently, USGS scientists from a variety of disciplines developed this plan as a forward-looking map for understanding the complexity of drought issues and the impact of drought on people and natural systems.

“Drought is a slow-onset disaster, and understanding its impacts to prepare drought-resilience actions is critical,” said USGS scientist and Drought Coordinator Andrea Ostroff.

“The key to helping offset its often-devastating effects on people, the economy and the environment is to provide managers with comprehensive science-based information for their decisions.”

The plan lays out a comprehensive response to stakeholders’ needs and to inform effective, research-based decisions and actions to help the nation’s communities and natural areas adapt to and offset the drought effects. It also details improved integration and coordination in the ways the USGS provides drought science to help decision-makers manage and mitigate effects of drought.

“Over the past several years, many regions in the United States have experienced extreme drought conditions, fueled by prolonged periods of reduced precipitation and exceptionally warm temperatures,” said Clint Muhlfeld, a USGS research ecologist and a USGS drought team member. “As global temperatures continue to rise, the frequency, intensity and duration of droughts are predicted to increase across many regions of North America, with enormous consequences for people and natural ecosystems.”

The coordinated and integrated USGS drought science plan, said Muhlfeld, represents a new path forward toward understanding drought processes and impacts on humans and ecosystems to build effective national drought-resilience capabilities. The National Drought Resilience Partnership, an interagency federal working group initiative started in 2013, developed an action plan to promote drought resilience nationwide. The action plan identified USGS as an essential agency for this because of its scientific capabilities to address drought issues directly or indirectly at regional and national levels.

The USGS drought science plan, said Ostroff, brings to bear the agency's considerable expertise in numerous scientific disciplines to understand complex interactions that determine drought and drought effects; describe uncertainties associated with drought causes and effects; develop robust models to predict drought risk and vulnerability for planning and mitigation purposes; advance efforts in coordinated drought science that will lead to development of drought-monitoring systems; and deliver decision-support science to help federal, state, tribal, regional and local stakeholders prepare and manage for the future across the country.

Ultimately, this coordinated and integrated approach will help the nation prepare for and cope with drought to protect human health and safety, natural ecosystems, national security, the economy and quality of life in changing world.

The USGS Circular, *USGS Integrated Drought Science*, was published today and was written by the USGS Drought Team and includes scientists Andrea C. Ostroff, Clint C. Muhlfeld, Patrick M. Lambert, Nathaniel L. Booth, Shawn L. Carter, Jason M. Stoker and Michael J. Focazio

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**Are any of you willing to create a workshop for our members? Let us know.**

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### **Dates of SGMS meetings for 2017:**

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

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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!