

Pandemic Protocol Relaxed - Come Healthy - Sign In - No Temp Checks - Masks Are Optional

 JOIN US FOR THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

In-Person — Friday November 1st at 7 pm at the Clubhouse

Meet Real-Life California Prospector Charlie Cockle

Dear members and friends of the
San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society:
Our November 2024 First Friday Program
will feature prospector **Charlie Cockle**.

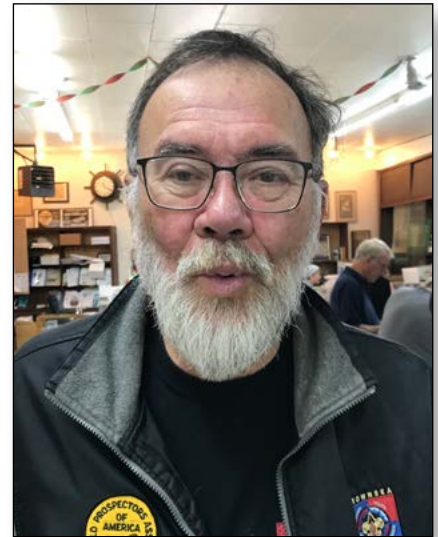
Charlie is a member of the East Bay Prospectors
Association, an official Gold Prospectors Association
of America (GPAA) chapter, founded in 2009.

*Are you interested in Gold Prospecting and
Treasure Hunting?* Come to the clubhouse and
meet Charlie. He'll share his experience finding
gold, and will explain the difference between
“mining” and “prospecting.”

The **East Bay Prospectors Association**
(www.ebprospectors.com) provides education,
support, and public awareness of prospecting
and mining — emphasizing responsible
environmental conservation.

Charlie's presentation is titled “**Prospecting
Gold in California.**”

After the presentation a general discussion will follow.



SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER 2024:

Fri. Nov. 1st - In-Person General Meeting at the Clubhouse: 7–9 pm.

Sat. Nov. 2nd - Clubhouse Clean Up - 10 am - Noon.

(Instructors and Club Members are asked to help)

Mon. Nov. 11th - Board Meeting on Zoom @ 7 pm.

Sat. Nov. 16th - Club Open House - 10 am - 3 pm.

Thanksgiving Holiday Clubhouse - Closed Nov. 28 - 29th.

Sat. Dec. 14th - Year-End Clubhouse Meeting - 4 - 8pm.

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MINERAL

(415) 564-4230

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Part 158

Masthead by Kevin Anderson

It's Elemental...

So, what's a rock made of? Elements. Elements are chemical substances that cannot be broken down into other substances by chemical reactions. It all goes back to high school chemistry class. Minerals are made out of combinations of elements, and rocks are made out of combinations of minerals.

If you want to know more, there's Wikipedia, and a book I recommend that's called "How it Works, The Book of the Elements," Great book, and ... with lots of pretty pictures. I love that.

At last reading, there are 118 elements, 94 of which are found in nature, the other 24 were made by people, and all of these "unnatural" elements are radioactive. Also, it's amazing how many of these elements are metals like gold, silver, copper, iron, and sodium. Yeah, sodium is a metal, a silvery colored metal. The reason you probably haven't seen it, is because it can't exist in our atmosphere by itself. Mix it with chlorine, a poisonous gas, and it becomes table salt. Mix it with oxygen and you can make sodium hydroxide, Lye, nasty stuff, but great for cleaning hair and gunk out of the drains. All elements can be found on the Periodic Table of the Elements, arranged by Atomic Number, (how many protons each one has). School was a long time ago and I don't remember all the details.

But, those lessons are still useful. When I took Wanda Baczek's Gemology classes at City College of SF about a zillion years ago, I learned that every time she showed us a gem, it had a recipe that told us what it was made out of. Rubies are

aluminum oxide with chromium, and Rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate mineral. We're made out of elements too, of course; animals are, air, plants ... everything.

This has always been handy to me, especially when dealing with plants. Plants need nutrients to grow, most of which come from the soil, either naturally or in the form of fertilizer and those nutrients are elements.

How many of you know what an NPK is? Learn this and you can grow better tomatoes, house plants, trees and whatever. All good fertilizers should have three numbers written on the package; these numbers give you the percentages of the three most important elements found in that bag of fertilizer: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium, or NPK. Plants want these nutrients, they NEED them, but warning, all too often those percentages are WRONG for the plant they're intended. Do a little internet research, find out exactly what that particular plant wants, and buy the fertilizer according to those percentages of NPK.

Nitrogen is N, Phosphorus is P and K stands for Potassium, why? Because potassium used to be called Kalium. (from Neo-Latin kalium). Sometimes things are simple, like learning how to use my iPhone. Ahhhhh! Maybe in ten years or so I can figure out how it works.

Back to the rocks. Rocks don't make good fertilizer, but they're lovely in the rock garden. Some rocks are ignorant, I mean Igneous. Those were baked in volcanos deep in the earth. Some igneous rocks are extrusive, meaning they got extruded. Intrusive igneous rocks have bad manners, and plutonic rocks are just good friends. Okay, look it up yourselves, I don't want to do all the work.

Metamorphic rocks started out as some other type of rock, but got changed into something else, but don't let that bother you. And, sedimentary rocks just sit around and sedimentate. I made that up and spell check doesn't like it. Sedimentary rocks are made of sediment, like the &^%\$#@!! stuff in my back yard that I try to garden in.

Okay, this is getting silly, but the stuff about the fertilizer is for real, and lately it's given me something to get snarky about. The percentages of NPK on fertilizer bags used to be 20-20-20, and 10-10-10. Now, all the bags I find in local nurseries say 5-3-5 and such. The amounts of the elements have gone way down, and the prices (like everything else) have gone way up! All the rest of the stuff in the bag is FILLER! I used to use cow s—t on my plants but the neighbors complained. Well, I think I'll go natural and smell up the neighborhood again.

Club Scenes: *September Sunstone Trip to Oregon*

Photos courtesy Lola Petit and Jeanne Svahlin



Club Scenes: *Sunstone Trip to Oregon (cont'd.)*

Photos courtesy Bob Kozak



Recent Faceting Student Graduates by Kirk Kwiatkowski



Amy Chow (pink sapphire) and Luke Jaskowski (clear quartz) did amazing work to create these beautiful gems!

Club Notice: 2024-2026 Call For Nominations

2024-26 Call for Club Officers

by Tony DeLeon

Our club will hold elections for all officers on December 14th, 2024. Members in good standing may nominate a member to fill a role. Self-nomination is encouraged.

The December Mineralog will list the nominated officers.

The nominations will remain open until the time of the election. To submit a nomination, please email Tony DeLeon at tonythetm@aol.com – *Subject line: “Officer Nominations”*

Officers will be installed during the January 2025 General Zoom meeting. Officers serve a two-year term starting January 1st 2025 and ending December 31st 2026.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND DUTIES BELOW:

President –

The club's chief executive officer and is expected to preside at all club meetings and at all regular and special meetings of your Executive Committee. To insure the club carries its mission to promote the knowledge of mineralogy, the earth science and the lapidary arts.

Vice President –

In charge of our educational programs and bring speakers to our first Friday monthly meetings and any other special event and take charge if the club President is unavailable.

Recording Secretary –

Performs the duties by taking minutes and recording action items at all regular and special meetings as needed.

Corresponding Secretary –

Manage correspondence to and from the club at the direction of the board. Explore the use of social media to promote our club.

Membership Secretary –

Actively recruit new members and renew members and maintains records.

Treasurer –

Manage the funds of the club under the directions of the board. With the general funds you will help budget, pay bills and set up special funds that may be required for the club and provide reports to the board.

Librarian –

In charge of all club books, magazines, media, pamphlets and other publications.

Museum Curator -

Make our club a beautiful place to see mineral specimens and work with the public to evaluate gem, rock and mineral donations to the club.

Entertainment Director –

Coordinate club events featuring food and drink at club functions.

Six Board Directors –

Six representatives of the club, who will attend and participate in the monthly meetings and bring ideas to continuously maintain and improve the club.

Upcoming Events of Interest to Club Members:

Big Sur Jade Festival (28th Annual)

New Dates: 11/1 - 11/3/2024

Fri 12-6 PM, Sat 10-6 PM, Sun 10-5 PM

New Location: Harmony, CA (14 mi. South of San Simeon, CA)

Due to road outages, this unique event has moved south. This coastal festival is still free to attend and park, featuring the best Jade and lapidary artists & vendors of finished & rough jade & other materials from around the country and beyond. World-class musicians, drum circles every morning, and much more. Motels & camping in nearby San Simeon & Cambria. (Take Hwy 101 then Route 46 West to the coast, then South to Harmony.)

Website: <https://www.bigsurjadefestival.com>



Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Annual Show

11/2- 11/3/2024

Sat 10-5 PM, Sun 10-4 PM

CCMGS will be hosting a two-day Mineral and Gem Show in Concord, CA that is open to the public.

Admission: Adults 13-64-\$10; Seniors 65+-\$9; Children 0-12-FREE.

Location: Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA

Website: <https://www.ccmgsclub.com>

Rockin Holiday Sale in Santa Cruz, CA

11/16 - 11/17/2024 • Sat 10-5 PM, Sun 10-4 PM

Members of the club sell rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, and other lapidary items at the club's holiday sale. Admission and parking are free. Location: Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA

Website: <http://scrockngem.org>

CLUBHOUSE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**** PLEASE be sure to call the clubhouse (415-564-4230) before traveling ****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 AM - 3 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing	10 AM - 1 PM Lapidary	9 AM - 10 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking	9 AM - Noon Lapidary	Noon- 3 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing,	CLOSED	10 AM- 5 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking
	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting	3 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting		

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

-  **General Meeting In-Person at The Clubhouse**
November 1st, Friday • 7:00 - 9:00 pm

-  **Clubhouse Clean Up - Instructors/Members Please Help**
November 2nd, Saturday • 10:00 am - Noon

-  **Board Meeting on Zoom***
November 11th, Monday Night • 7:00 pm
**Zoom -Info: tonythetm@aol.com*

-  **SF Gem & Mineral Society Club Fair & Open House**
November 16th, Saturday • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Contact Tony to reserve a spot: tonythetm@aol.com

-  **Mineralog December 2024 Submission Deadline**
November 18th, Monday • 5:00 pm

-  **Thanksgiving Holiday - Clubhouse Closed**
November 28th - 29th

-  **Year-End In-Person Clubhouse Meeting**
December 14th, Saturday • 4:00 - 8:00 pm



CLUB BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Note: Exact birth "DATES" are not shared to protect privacy.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Kurt Kurzenhauser
Leigh Toth
Briana Schweizer
Richard Bonderud
Seth Gold
Matt Lesniewski
Kristin Tanner
Miguel Navarrete
Barbara Hockman
Cort Benningfield
Mary Blonkenfeld
W. Curry III
Laura Blue
Seth Lerer
Solly Taylor
Dylan Mooney
Joaquin Alves
Si-On Nguyen
Henry Jason, Jr.
Stephen Watry
Ruth Mehrwein
Rodney Miyatake
Eugenio De Hostos
Julie Martin
Aaron Del Rosario
Barbara Misthos
Missirlian Marcus | Marcus Missirlian
Christina White
Jill Ellenfsen
Nadine Samorand
Collette Weis
Colton Johnson
Roman Mikulinsky
Lola Pettit
Nick Kucera
Ali Rappaport
Gerson Finlev
Ross Macleod
Madison Carter
Matthew Goldklang
Christopher DeWinter
Li Liu
Sheri Barkowski
Chris Miller
Annie Edinger
Gregory Edwards
Mike Welsh
Aaron Jui Lee
Chris Osborne
Susan Platania
Michael McFarlin
Helene Park
Kang-Min (Maurice) Chang |
|---|---|

NEW MEMBERS FROM OCTOBER

A warm welcome to the following new members:

- Sara Gossett
- Parks Dunlap
- Brody Sy Loeffler
- Silvia Kacic



To add, update or change a calendar event, please contact mineralog@protonmail.com



In Memoriam: Deanna Nielsen

by Tony DeLeon

Club member Deanna Nielsen passed away on September 9th 2024 at the age of 84. Deanna retired in 2006, after which she volunteered to produce the club newsletter each month. Her last issue was in November of 2021. Deanna loved and was inspired by the annual show our club produced, and decided to take on the challenge of being the editor of the Mineralog. Deanna has been a member since 1989. She was always one of the first members to register for our monthly Zoom meetings. Deanna was an avid traveler, especially to experience solar eclipses, and enjoyed photography. She was also a devoted fan of the Warriors basketball team. She is greatly missed.

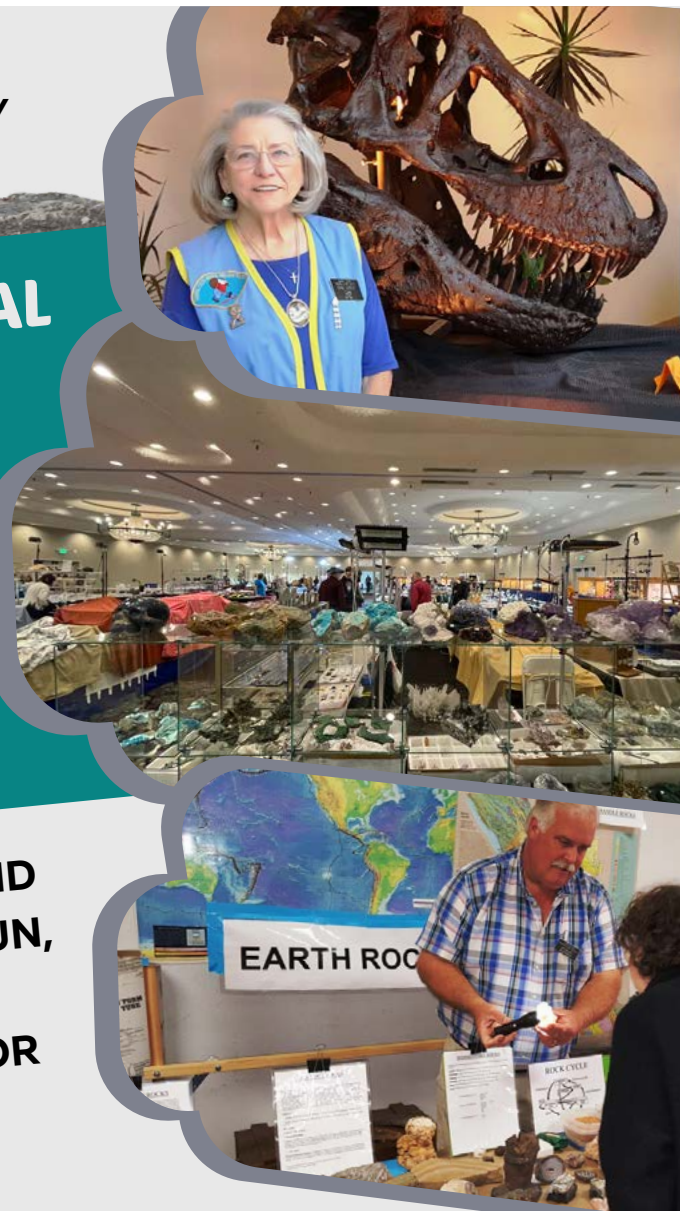


**THE CONTRA COSTA
MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
MINERAL AND
GEM SHOW!**

**NOVEMBER 2-3, 2024
SAT. 10AM-5PM & SUN. 10AM-4PM
5298 CLAYTON RD. CONCORD, CA**

**COME ENJOY A ROCKIN' WEEKEND
FULL OF AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN,
HOLIDAY SHOPPING, AND
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR
ALL AGES!**



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Tony DeLeon	tonythetm@aol.com	415-624-7576
<i>Vice President</i>	Bob Kozak	topaz00805@comcast.net	650-554-0251
<i>Treasurer</i>	Joseph Huff	josephahuff@outlook.com	415-596-4833
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Heather McCormik	hamster415@gmail.com	
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<i>Museum Curator</i>	Geno De Hostos	hostos@pacbell.net	415-244-1965
<i>Entertainment Director</i>	Robert Courtney	exlibrys13@yahoo.com	
<i>Librarian</i>	Mariana Photiou	parathiraki@gmail.com	415-712-2997



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THE MINERALOG

We are always grateful for editorial and photographic submissions, especially from our members.

To contribute content, submit story or calendar additions, updates or corrections, please email the Editor:
mineralog@protonmail.com

Deadline for **December** Mineralog is 5:00 PM
Monday, November 18th

Any submissions or changes received after the deadline will automatically be included in the following month's Mineralog.

Original material published in the Mineralog that is not copyrighted may be reprinted with all due and proper credits.

For Membership Info, contact the Membership Secretary:
tonythetm@aol.com

SAN FRANCISCO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

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415-564-4230 • www.SF-GMS.org

Membership Activities Include:

Earth Sciences, Lapidary, Field Trips, Collecting, Jewelry Making, Classes

An Educational Non-Profit Organization Founded in 1935

Member, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies