
SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 1, Issue 2

Tule Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter...www.tulegem.org

May 2008

Puffs from the Chief

A message from our President

Marshall Havner

Spring is here and our members are making all kinds of plans for trips and activities. Thanks to Tony and Cathy Hart for all the time and energy they put into getting their place ready for the fun day at their house on April 12th. We had a vendor from Diamond Pacific who brought equipment to demonstrate. Thanks to Charles Reed and Rob Milner for demonstrating silver-smithing and use of equipment. Thanks to everyone who brought great food and helped to make this a good day. We're looking forward to next years BBQ.

Don Vieira is organizing lists for classes to be held at the club shop. These classes will be taught by various instructors. Please sign up for a class and support these classes as a lot of work and time is involved by the instructors. This is a good opportunity to learn and or improve new skills. We've been listening to member's requests and have added equipment to accommodate the needs of the members. We should be able to teach silver-smithing soon as we are in the process of purchasing equipment for the club shop.

Our summer picnic is coming up on June 2nd @ 6pm. This is always a fun time so mark your calendar and plan on

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You don't have to wait for a TGMS field trip to visit great places.

Members Don and Virginia Sheldrick invite you to share the story of their exciting trip.

We had a family function to attend in Stockton the last weekend of April. We decided to leave a few days early and make a side trip to Yosemite to see the spring waterfalls. Because Route 140 is closed to vehicles over 28ft., we decided to camp in Mariposa at the fairgrounds. This was our first trip to the area, so we picked up tourist information in town. On Thursday, we toured Yosemite; it is beautiful as always, (except for the delays, working on the roads into Yosemite Valley).

Before checking out of the campground on Friday, we visited the California State Mining and Mineral Museum, which was also located right at the campground (admission \$3). It contained an excellent display of native CA gems (benitoite, amethyst, jade, etc) and minerals (silver, gold, boron, etc.) The "star" of the exhibit was the 13 pound piece of crystalline gold. It also had many interesting displays of mining machinery old & newer, and some working models of old gold mining villages and gold stamping. We managed to visit on a day when there were two school classes taking a tour, but it is an interesting place to visit for people of all ages. The only unfortunate part was that the mine was closed that day for repairs; they said it was due to open "next week: just our luck.

With time to spare, we drove down through this very cute little old western type town. We parked the car, then walked around and came to a small shop which was owned and operated by the local Mariposa Gem and Mineral Society. It is staffed by volunteer members of that club. In the shop they sell many of their own jewelry projects as well as some cut and uncut rocks. In talking to the volunteer, we found out we missed their show by one week, but it was interesting talking with her about this area and finding out about their club. They bring in experts on gems and minerals to lecture at their monthly meetings. If, you haven't visited Mariposa, we strongly recommend stopping there someday.

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being there. This year the picnic will be at Pat Harrison's place. A map for directions and additional information will be in your June bulletin and on the tulegem.org web site. You can also telephone him at 564-1943.

Charles Reed is leading a trip to Tonopah May 22 through 26. They always bring back lots of turquoise so mark this one on your calendars and plan on going. You can get additional information from Charles at 784-6394.

We have a Board Meeting on May 19th @ 7pm at Marshall & Debbie's house. Please mark the date and plan to attend as we have lots to discuss, which includes the Gemboree, and are attempting to keep club business moving. All members are welcome to attend however only Board members can vote.

Marshall Havner
TGMS President



Cookies, cakes, brownies, fruit.....this is a short list of some of the treats that you have enjoyed at the end of our monthly meetings.

Joan Livesay heads the refreshment committee. Be sure to thank her for making sure that everyone remembers their turn to bring dessert. You are on the dessert list, right?

Master Craftsmen – Don Vieira

Don was the second oldest child in his family. He has an older sister and two younger sisters and four younger brothers. Adrienne's maiden name was Avila. She had two brothers. They were both born and raised in Turlock where they also attended high school.

Don Attended the Junior College in his area then Fresno State. He graduated from UC Davis with a teaching credential. Don and Adrienne were married February 6, 1956. They lived in Oakdale for one semester while Don was at UC Davis.

Did you know that Adrienne's parents sent her to baton and dance school?

Don and Adrienne moved to Exeter in 1958 where Don began his teaching career as an Agriculture Mechanics Teacher. Don taught for 7 years at the Exeter Union High School until 1966. In that same year, the Vieira's moved to Visalia where Don began his tenure of 31 years teaching at College of the Sequoias. He taught Ag Mechanics, Farm accounting, and information on soils, irrigation, and forage crops. Don retired from teaching in 1996. Adrienne opened her baton and dance studio in the Exeter Women's Club. Adrienne taught baton and dance from 1960 to 1993. She also worked for See's Candy for 16 years.

Don and Adrienne have children of whom they can be justly proud. Scott, who is their only son, is married to Darcie, who, you'll remember, sang at our banquet in February. Scott has been teaching Special Education classes in the Visalia school district for twelve years. He and Darcie have two sons.

Their Daughter, Renee, lives in Turlock, has four children and is part owner of a beauty salon. Daughter Deborah lives in Saritoga, has four children, and teaches aerobics. In 1988 she was sponsored by Reebok and traveled world wide performing Aerobics and Gymnastics. Daughter Diana lives in Fresno. She too has four children. She is a professional baker and also teaches aerobics.

Don thinks he began rock-hounding classes in 1972...He is knowledgeable and enjoys cabochon making. He teaches the at the Tule Gem and Mineral Society workshop Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. He has served the Tule Gem and Mineral society for many years and in many capacities. This year the Tule Gem and Mineral Society honored Don's many years of work with the club by awarding him a lifetime membership award.

Learn from the best..... Sign up for classes at the TGMS workshop

Have you thought about learning a new skill? Maybe you'd like to learn how to use some of the great equipment out at the workshop. Here is your chance to learn from the best of TGMS pool of wonderful and talented artisans. TGMS is working on forming a class schedule. Below are some of the options being offered at the TGMS workshop. All dates have yet to be determined, but classes will fill up fast. Contact Don Vieira to sign up. Or come to the June meeting and put your name on the list.

Beading -	Janice Robertson Laura Heberling
Silversmithing -	Rob Milner
Cabochon Cutting -	Don Vieira Mike Obert
Faceting -	Joe Navarro Joe Nunes
Wire Wrapping -	Judy Link Sherry Hannold
Carving-Sculpting -	Rob Milner Harold Schmidt



Tule Gem and Mineral Society Monthly Meeting May 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Havner at 7:30 P.M., followed by the flag salute led by Rob Milner. There were 40 members present.

Treasurer Pat Harrison gave the treasurers report. A motion was made and seconded that the treasure's report be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Don Vieira interesting account on the clubs history, how successful the annual gem shows have been with many club members always show up to help set up cases, etc.; how well the club work shop is being run and utilized by members and the volunteers that do a really good job keeping the machinery in good repair and clean; He also told about all of the fun times members have at our monthly meetings, picnics, BBQ and on the many field trips taken through out the year.

Corresponding Secretary, Sherrie reported on the letter received from CFMS about their show coming up, if anyone wants a case at the show please contact Sherrie or President Havner. She also received a letter from BLM outlining the new areas they have closed to the public. The New Idria trip planned in June has been tabled until further notice because of the closures.

Vice President, Margaret Buchmann, announced that the first meeting of the 2009 annual Tule Gem and Mineral show will be held in conjunction with the club board meeting at 7:00 P.M. on May 19, 2008, at the Havner home in Lindsay.

Janice Roberts reported on the activities listed in the CFMS news letter. Upcoming show are being held in Newberry Park, May 17th & 18th; Nipomo, Aug 15th to 23rd and Trona, Oct. 11th & 12th. She also gave an outline on the activities offered at Camp Paradise. There will be training classes on numerous methods of crafting jewelry, etc. The first week will be from Aug. 30th through Sept. 6th. The fee for attending is \$300.00 per week which includes meals, housing, classes and some supplies as needed. If you require more supplies they may be purchased there. Take your own bedding. Week 2 will be the same.

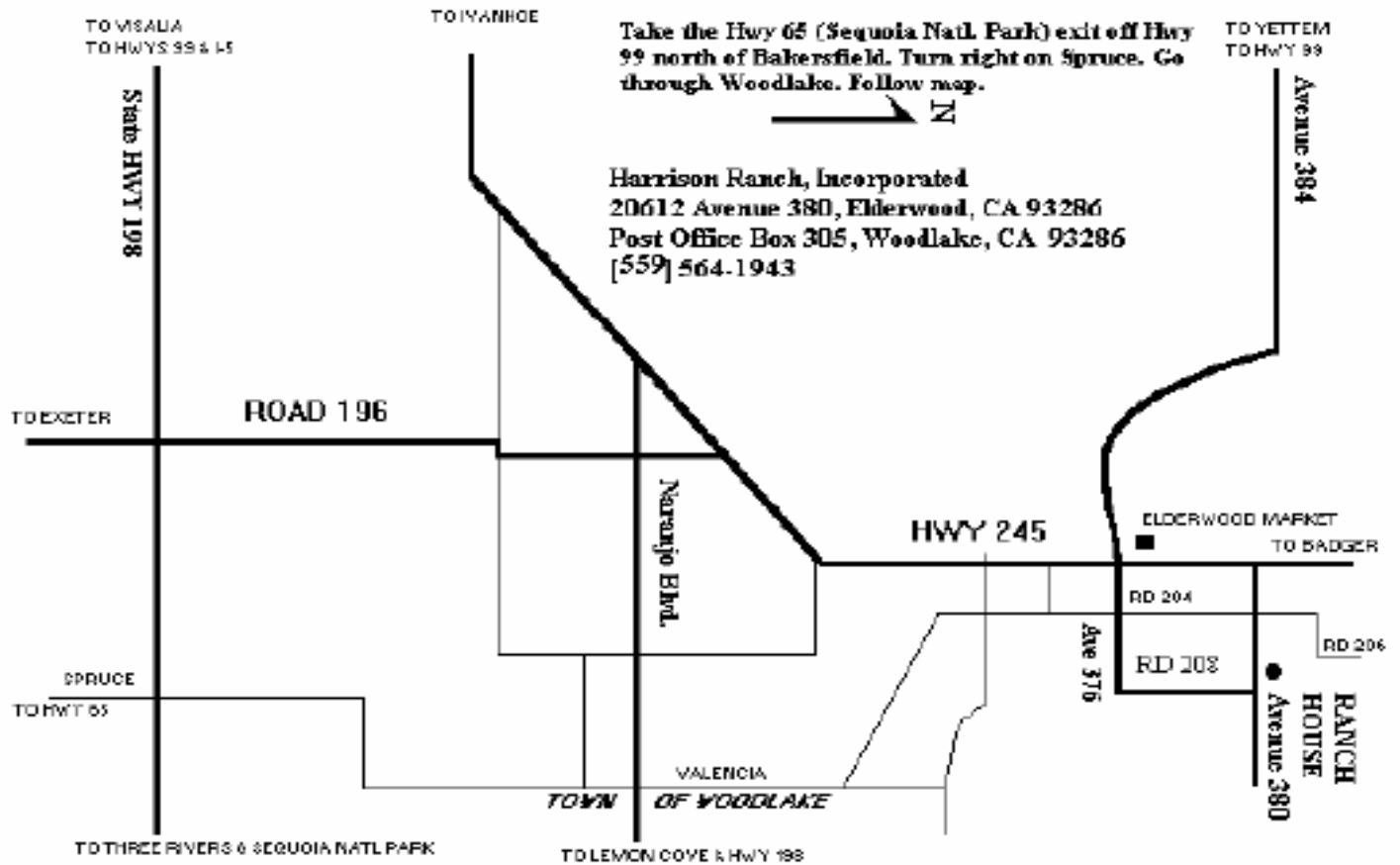
It was reported that the BBQ held at Tony and Kathy Harts home was a huge success, good demonstrations, good food and good company, a big thank you Tony and Kathy for your hospitality

Judy Link announced that the bus to the Ventura show will be leaving at approximately 6:30 A.M. on June 28th from the Holiday Inn in Visalia, the cost for the bus trip is \$24.00 each.

The trip to Tonopah is scheduled to take place from May 22nd through the 26th. It is a really fun trip and a good Gem and Mineral gathering site.

The Monday, June 2, 2008 regular meeting and the clubs annual picnic will be held at the Pat Harrison

June 2nd TGMS meeting is at Pat Harrison's House. Below are directions. Meeting begins at 6:00 pm
 TGMS will be providing BBQ chicken. Members with last name A-M bring a salad or side dish; N-Z please bring a dessert.



Upcoming TGMS Trips and Events.....

May 22 – May 26 Tonopah, Nevada Contact Charles Reed at 559-784-6394 if interested

June 28 Bus Trip to CFMS

Leave 6:30 am from Holiday Inn parking lot
Return approx 8:00 pm
\$24 per person, seats still available.
Contact Judy Link 559-747-3288

July 12 Green Mountain for Rose Quartz

Bring lunch and water. Meet at 8 am , Savemart parking lot in Porterville Call Marshall at 559-562-4133 if interested

You can reach the newsletter editor in several ways:

Call: Retta Niday 559-748-4047

Email: retta_niday@sequoiahistory.org

US Mail: 4155 W. Myrtle Ave
Visalia, Ca 93221

Did I spell your name wrong? Have something to share?
LET ME KNOW!!!!

Ranch in Elderwood, a map to the ranch will be provided. Members whose last name starts with A to M please bring a salad or side dish. Members whose last name starts with N to Z please bring a dessert.

President Marshall won the door prize. The refreshments were provided by Pat Aharonian, Roxie Olmstead and Laura Haberling, Thank you ladies, they were delicious.

Don Vieira announced that there will be classes held at the club work shop on beading, silver smithing, cabochon cutting, faceting, wire wrapping and carving-sculpting. A list of the day, time, and the volunteers teaching the classes will be provided at a later date. Be sure and sign up for any of the classes you are interested in taking.

A motion was made and seconded that the club purchase equipment and supplies needed for silver smithing at the club work shop, the estimated cost being \$600.00 for the equipment and \$400.00 for supplies. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that the club purchase a new tarp to cover the rocks given to us by past members for use in silent auctions that are being stored at the Steve Hayward ranch. Motion carried. It was also announced that any club member that uses club grit to tumble rocks is entitled to keep ¼ of the rocks tumbled, the other ¾ going to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Respectively submitted by
Corene Keys, Secretary

