

Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous

By Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips

Our next Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous is schedule for May 20-25, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for **OBSIDIAN!!!** The Rendezvous is hosted by the NFMS and the CFMS.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp. In addition to the daily collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, knapping demonstrations, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is in the extreme northeastern corner of California on Highway 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. The collecting area is in the mountains behind the little town of Davis Creek, which is 22 miles north of Alturas. Some supplies and gasoline are available at the general store; also ice cream on a hot afternoon. The people at the store are very helpful and prices are reasonable. They can give advice on the road conditions and other local information.

There are two established campgrounds convenient to the collecting areas, although you can camp in many locations throughout the mountains. The Plum Valley Campground has many trees and a stream, but the interior roads are somewhat rough and narrow. Large trailers and motor homes may have difficulty.

A much larger campground that can handle any size rig is the Lassen Creek Campground. This is the campground we will use for our rendezvous. This is a beautiful, spacious campground with enough room for our group and all of our planned activities. There is a stream and big tall pine trees. No facilities are available at any of the campgrounds, except for well maintained pit toilets. All trash must be carried back out. Motels and full hook-up campgrounds are available in Alturas and Lakeview.

There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour. So mark your calendar – **May 20 to 25, 2009**, watch for the trip flier for all the details and start making your plans to join us for another great Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous. The trip flier and other information for the Rendezvous will be posted on the CFMS web site, www.cfmsinc.org in December and other federation web sites. Or you can get fliers and information from Steve Davis or me.