CULVER CITY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB P.O. BOX 3324 Culver City, Ca 90231

September 2009

Monday, September 14, 2009 6:30 pm Executive Meeting 7:30 pm General Meeting and Program: The Phenomena of Gems

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer runs its course and fall approaches, it's nice to remember what a great show we had this year. Robert Thirlaway was re-elected as show chairman for the 49th Fiesta of Gems in 2010. Robert and I want to use this next show as a lead-in to the 50th anniversary show in 2011. So at this point we want to start recruiting chairs and vice-chairs for all the various duties of the show. With vice-chairs we're looking to keep any one job from being overwhelming. We're also looking at new ideas which we can experiment with and then use the ideas that pan out for the 50th anniversary show. So after going through all of this, we'll be asking every one of our members to step up and be active in the next two shows so that the 50th showing of the Fiesta of Gems will be the largest, grandest and most spectacular event in our history!

Our annual picnic in August was a huge success with lots of members enjoying the great BBQ'ed hamburgers, chicken and dogs. With all the side dishes brought by the members we all had plenty to eat (I for one went away five pounds heavier). The silent auction was, as always a lot of fun with two whole tables loaded with goodies from our very own shop as well as a couple of the members, kudos to Bruce Mensinger for bringing this all together for us. I believe a great time was had by all and I hope we can use this as a springboard for our December holiday dinner party. Speaking of which, would someone in our club volunteer to be the Host or Hostess and start working to make the holiday party a success? Please call me at (310) 391-8429 as I would love to see this event coordinated so more of our members can attend.

One last comment about the City and our ongoing problems with the club shop. We are having another meeting with the City in September to go over what our club and the Boy Scouts have done to this point. We've both been working on bids for the restoration and these will be brought to the club members shortly so you all can review the extent of the costs we are looking at, which

are substantial. After the costs have been reviewed by the club then we can work on a schedule of the tasks, and I believe this is what the City is really looking for.

Well I hope everyone is having a fine summer. I for one cannot wait for fall and cooler weather so I can get back out to the desert to do a little rock-hounding and camping. See 'ya there.

Rick Shaffer

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM September 14, 2009 7:30 pm

THE PHENOMENA OF GEMS

Do you have stones that glow, change colors, have stars or eyes? Do some seem to have moving mirrors on the inside? Are you baffled by irridescence and just claim it happens because of spirits? What, pray tell, could possibly account for these various phenomena, and can someone please explain it all (clearly) to me?

The topic for our September 14 program comes from the title of the most recent installment in the Fred Ward series of books on the major gemstones. Phenomena of Gems refers to all those qualities in gemstones which appear as movement or fluorescence, etc., to the viewer. Both Fred and Charlotte Ward will be at the meeting for the presentation. Since Charlotte did the majority of the research and writing for the book, she will be the main speaker for this powerpoint presentation.

We will feast our eyes on examples of Nature's visual extravaganza. Bring your own samples and examples of oddities from your collection. This will be the premier program of the year. Visitors will be delighted you invited them. Charlotte's participation in past presentations showed her clarity of understanding and the charm of her personality. I highly recommend you make plans to attend this meeting.

Give directions, show up, and I'll see you there.

Ed Montgomery, Program Chair

Dolores Dace (right), **CCRMC Education** Liaison presented a check for \$1,000 for books in the subject of Earth Sciences. On hand to accept the gift was Gwenis Laura,



intendent of Culver City Schools, Education Services at Culver City Unified School District.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MTG **August 10, 2009**

Present: Robert Thirlaway, Lynne Lukert, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Bruce Mensinger, Steve Dover, Rick Shaffer, Sylvia Binkley, Grace Sato, Dolores Dace and Leda Rogers.

Meeting began at 6:45 p.m. with a reminder of the Club picnic on August 15, 2009 at Carlson Park, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Great food, conversation and silent auction.

Show: See Robert regarding show registration forms for e-mail addresses, etc. All our hard work resulted in a very successful 2009 Fiesta of Gems. Most of the show prizes have been delivered or picked up. Grace Sato and Sylvia Binkley have photos of the show. Mary Ellen thanked club members for cookies (shared with dealers and demonstrators). Raffle results will allow for a donation to CCUSD schools.

Shop: Bruce said the shop is requiring attention to updating equipment, etc. We need a new barrel of oil, was moved, seconded and carried for the purchase. While at shop, check out our Library.

Roster: In the works—Call Rick 310-391-8429 if you do not want specific information included in the roster.

Treasurer: Mary Ellen – CCR&MC is currently solvent. Liability insurance with CFMS is due in October. Officers and Board of Director to be listed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dolores B. Dace Secretary pro-tem

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MTG **August 10, 2009**

Meeting began with flag salute at 7:35 p.m. Quorum was established, new members and guests were introduced.

We will have a Trading Post at break; and Leda Rogers will share her birthday cake with us.

2009 Fiesta of Gems Show Report

Robert gave synopsis of "load-up at Shop, set-up on Friday, take-down on Sunday." How did we do? All in all, the show was successful; vendors did well; many members volunteered at various stations; a percentage of raffle tickets will be donated to Culver City schools. Meet 2010 Fiesta of Gems Show chair, Robert Thirlaway!

Club picnic at Carlson Park, August 15, 2009 11–3. Silent auction after lunch. Join us.

Nugget – Barbara Fier will be editor for September issue, be sure to deliver your articles before August 18. Thank you.

Shop – Bruce gave a short introduction to shop equipment and use -50ϕ an hour and instructors are available. Six saws, two trim saws, three grinding wheels, four polishing wheels, kiln for casting, two flat laps. Need to order oil for saws; it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize this purchase. Check out our lending Library. The Library has a first aid kit.

Treasurer – Mary Ellen reported Club is solvent; liability insurance with CFMS is due in October.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. for break.

PROGRAM – Gem mines in Madagascar presented by Charles Carmona.

> Respectfully submitted, Dolores B. Dace Secretary pro-tem



▲ Sylvia Binkley looking for treasures at the Festival of Gems Show.

SHOP REPORT: Shop Status Update

Last month I outlined the preliminary remediation needed before roof replacement can begin and our contact with two qualified contractors who agreed to submit bids for this first stage of the work. To my knowledge, as of August 19, neither the written 'Statement of Work Needed' nor cost estimates has been received.

The first stage work to be done on our shop is removal of loose lead paint, removal of lead paint debris, and the subsequent coating of the old, intact paint with new primer and new paint. Also, we will have to do the enlargement of the bathroom door per ADA requirements at the same time, due to lead paint.

Options

Several other options have been suggested and are under consideration. Now that the Fiesta of Gems has occurred our attention can more fully focus on the Shop situation again.

If we are required to do a substantial amount of additional work on the shop, for example as a result of building code upgrade requirements, we are considering enlarging the building. This could relieve crowding and layout problems, allow room for additional machines, enlarge the metal fabricating area, and eliminate one or both storage sheds.

Moving to a new site and another building, either city owned or not, has barely begun to be investigated.

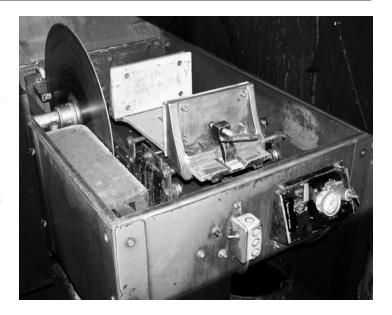
Another potential direction, admittedly a long-shot, is to acquire a building, or space in a large building, for use instead of renovating and remaining in our current cramped city-owned quarters. A disused gas station, repair shop, or small industrial park unit come to mind.

An even longer long-shot would be a donated building. When I originally suggested this I was brainstorming, anything goes ideas, even the most farfetched. Yes, to state the obvious, a donated building is far-fetched. But, as one very wise member pointed out, "We only need one."

Your suggestions and ideas are welcome.

New Grind Wheels

New coarse grit grind wheels on the left side of both the left and middle stations replaced the worn wheels. The replacements are textured wheels. I chose these because they cut faster than smooth wheels although they are somewhat rougher running.



24-Inch Saw

The 24-inch slab saw is back in service. As recent shop users know, this saw has had mostly downtime over the past month or more. The problem was that the vise would not advance. This had multiple causes, some subtle.

Initially: The vise advances using a hydraulic system. Minor leaks gradually depleted the hydraulic fluid reservoir. Eventually the pump starved, stopping the vise. Yet, the reservoir was not empty, just low; that was curious, nagging, and ultimately an important clue. Adding hydraulic fluid allowed the pump to resume. Saw operation was satisfactory overall and a minor leak was a minor problem.

Things got worse: The loss of hydraulic fluid increased. Rebuilding the primary pressure regulator and hydraulic cylinder failed to stop fluid loss and loss of pressure. Meanwhile, due to a change of availability at the supplier, we started using a different brand of hydraulic oil. It had a more honey-like viscosity than our previous more water-like hydraulic oil. Initially this worked well but a new problem eventually arose. Adding oil to the reservoir no longer reliably restored good pump pressure. Finally, pumping ceased.

Mystery: The main leak was a loose screw on the hydraulic pump body. Easily solved once the pump was removed. But, no joy. Replacing the reservoir-to-pump supply line with less restrictive clear plastic tubing helped, but the pump worked intermittently at

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Shop Status Update - continued

best. The clear plastic revealed tiny bubbles in the oil in the supply line; cavitation! But, why?

Solution: New oil. What had happened was that the original hydraulic oil was low enough viscosity, and resisted cavitation well enough, that it worked despite the restricted supply line and pump housing leak, but just barely. It still needed some help from gravity in order to flow to the pump. When we switched to the more viscous oil the reservoir was still nearly half full, the level when problems began to occur. Thus, the new oil was diluted and the viscosity problem was a little worse but overcome by the higher oil level in the tank. Further leakage and subsequent addition of new oil, eventually even to the top of the tank, slowly made matters worse until the whole system became grossly unreliable. The loose screw on the pump started the train of events that led to total collapse.

For want of a nail the horseshoe was lost, and for want of the shoe ...

Bruce Mensinger

Shop Chairman

Shop Chairman

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS Phuong Pham Sept 17 Monica Schiel Sept 17 Darren Siegel Sept 17

Darren Siegel Sept 17
Selene Soler Sept 17





▲ The Festival of Gems Show dealers are knowledgeable sources.

SHOW REPORT Fiesta of Gems Show

The 48th Annual Fiesta of Gems is a great memory in a long line of great shows. With the 48th show in the rear view mirror and the 49th only 10 months away we take away some lessons learned to make the next show even better.

First, we are going to add a couple new chairperson positions; Volunteer coordinator, this position will ensure all of the members are contacted to ensure we have a large number of volunteers to spread out the work so everyone can participate in the clubs main event of the year.

Second, we are adding a chairperson for Instructor/ Class organization; The chairperson will be in charge of coordinating the addition of classes to the weekend schedule. If we can get enough instructors we will have three rooms available for jewelry, lapidary, PMC Design, only limited by the chairpersons imagination and coordination skills.

Third, re-energize participation by children and parents. The growth of the club and rock hounding in general rests in getting children and parents interested. We have a junior rock hound club called the Pebble Pups, there is a growing interest from the last show for children and parents to participate in the club. This next year we need additional volunteers to help with Pebble Pups at the meetings, on field trips and during the annual Show.

Currently Ellen and Minda Moe do 99 percent of the work on the children's games at the show. We don't have enough volunteers to have a sustained effort during the year.

As a note we are changing one of the volunteer positions, the book sales will be included in the magazine sales using the honor system. We will use that position to help in others areas such as plant sales, which did over \$400 in sales over the weekend vs. \$90 for books.

If interested in helping in any of the areas outlined please contact Robert Thirlaway at 310-213-7677 or thirlawr@gmail.com. See you at the next meeting.

Robert Thirlaway

49th Annual CCRMC Show Chairman.

SHOP POLICY CLARIFICATION

Due to some recent confusion at the shop, Rick and I thought it prudent to publish the following so that everyone is clear about what is considered appropriate at the shop and why.

Some questions have come up about the use of machines and other equipment at the shop.

Q. Who has precedence over others?

A. Every adult club member has equal status and priority. The only exception is the instructor in charge of the shop. Q. What privileges do club officers have at the shop that other club members lack?

A. Club officers have no greater privileges or claim to precedence than other club members.

Q. Can machines be reserved?

A. In general, no. Exceptions are extremely unusual and are for events that take place in the shop such as club projects or events such as workshops, youth programs, or school/scout tours. That said, these exceptions are to be agreed to with the session instructor prior to starting the project. Personal projects, even if they are intended for club use or will be donated to the club, are not exceptions.

Q. Can an incomplete cut be left in the saw for finishing in a later session?

A. Yes, but if someone else arrives before you at the later session your privilege may be lost. It is the next user who chooses to forgo use of the saw or not. Whether you are considering leaving an unfinished cut in the saw or are the next user, see 'generosity and selfishness' below.

Q. Can someone 'bump' you if you are using a machine they want to use?

A. No. However, the 'reasonable' test applies (see below). Using two or more saws is OK when others are absent; otherwise, negotiate.

Q. Who settles conflicting claims on the use of machines and equipment?

A. The parties themselves; if they can't agree, the shop instructor decides.

We are all adults and fellow club members. As such we are presumed capable of negotiating, sharing, and accepting delayed gratification of our wishes and desires. We are also expected to be reasonable in our claims on limited resources. Both generosity and self-ishness are universally recognized; be mindful, choose the building blocks of your reputation wisely. Ultimately,

the instructor has the responsibility (safety, security, machine and equipment care, instruction, ambience or social relations, etc.) for the shop and, thus, how it is run. If you can't settle issues of sharing on your own, the instructor's decision is unlikely to please you either.

Rick Shaffer
President
Bruce Mensinger
Shop Chairman

AUGUST PROGRAM: Gem Mines in Madagascar

Presented by Charles Carmona

Madagascar has similar topography to California, 240 miles from Africa, divided by the Mozambique Channel. It is one-third larger than California, 229,400 miles. The Indonesian people settled the eastern portion, the tropics of the island. The highest point is 5,000 feet. Desert covers the western part of Madagascar.

There are thirteen tribes on the island; most people are peaceful, but illiterate; although coups have caused unstable political unrest in some of the urban areas. Main highway is good, covers 1,500 miles with only four gas stations!

Mr. Carmona was involved with establishing a gemology institute and lab, and led a tour.

Tana was the first destination, urban with electricity; other areas more primitive but beautiful.

Ibity – for pegmatites, primitive mining of overburden, near rice terraces. (No machines, electricity, only people-powered by families.) In some areas of tropics there were lemur watchers (us).

Ilakaka – southern tip of the island, rivers with sapphire mining. No underground mining, only surface diggings on surrounding hills.

Manombo River – pan for sapphires ... watched entire families as they worked the river.

Isalo National Park – lower western area of island; establishing western-style tourist centers with bamboo huts and thatched roofs. Nearby Baobob Tree Reserve.

Our tour was able to bargain with some gem dealers in urban setting; Chinese are biggest investors in Madagascar; the island exports rice and vanilla;

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SEPTEMBER SHOWS

September 4-7 - Fort Bragg, CA

Show; 48th annual show; Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society; Town Hall, Main and Laurel; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4; Free; contact Don McDonell, 643 N. McPherson, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, (707) 964-3116

September 11-13 - Ferndale, CA

5th annual show, "Wildcat Gem Fest"; Wildcat Gem Society; Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 5th St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free; raffles, demonstrations, classes, silent auctions; contact Mike Martin, P.O. Box 189, Miranda, CA 95553, (707) 943-1575; e-mail: micknorma@directv.net

September 12-13 - Vista, CA

Show; Vista Gem & Mineral Society; Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free admission; 13 dealers, books, equipment, beads, jewelry, rough materials, demonstrators, cases, free gem identification; contact Fred Wilson, (760) 433-8446, Cherie Wilson, (760) 941-7073, or Lois M. Harr, (760) 724-0395

September 18-19 - Paso Robles, CA

18th annual show; Santa Lucia Rockhounds; Pioneer Park and Museum, 2010 Riverside Ave.;, south of Mid-State Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, exhibits, raffle prizes, youth activities, silent auction, demonstrations, games; contact Rich Smithen, P.O. Box 481, San Miguel, CA 93451, (805) 467-2966; e-mail: jonme2@wildblue.net

Madagascar - continued

Europeans have built some hotels for visitors, but the country is very poor.

Flights to Madacascar take 26 hours; motels/hotels are expensive but the visit to this island is outstanding! On these tours, boxes of pencils and notebooks are shared with the children who are very excited to see these strangers.

P.S. Thank you, Charles, for giving us a historical, geological, political and gemological introduction to this fascinating territory.

- D.B. Dace

September 19-20 - Redwood City, CA

43rd annual show, "Harvest of Gems"; Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society; Redwood City Community Activity Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults free; displays, dealers, glass bead making, kids' cab polishing, silent auction; contact Carol Corden, (650) 248-7155; e-mail: ccorden@earthlink.net; Web site: http://sgms.driftmine.com/

September 19-20 - Stockton, CA

"Earth's Treasures Gem Show"; Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club; Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 33 W. Alpine Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, 12 and under free with adult; lapidary and jewelry demonstrations, 40 exhibits, silent auction, kids' activities, \$1 off coupon on website; contact Nettie Meissner, P.O. Box 357, Lathrop, CA 95330, (209) 858-2263; e-mail: footsey1@ yahoo.com; Web site: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 25-27 - San Bernardino, CA

Annual Tailgate; Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Little League Baseball Park, Western Regional Headquarters, 6707 N. Little League Dr.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; silent auction; contact Emma Couveau, P.O. Box 1545, Colton, CA 92324, (909) 288 6182; e-mail: 1d4frog@aol.com

September 26-27 - Carmel, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Monterey Fairgounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, 10 - 6; Sun. 10-5, Sky Paxton (831) 262-2492, e-mail: sky@amilystones. net, Janis Rovetti (831) 657-1933, e-mail: Janis12@sbcglobal.net, Sat. www.cvgms.org

September 26-27 - Downey, CA

Show; Delvers Gem & Mineral Society; Womens Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; demonstrations, exhibits, vendors, raffle, grab bags; contact Nancy Bird, (562) 697-0636; e-mail: nancyjbird@verizon.net

September 26-27 - San Diego, CA

Annual show; San Diego Lapidary Society; Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 40+ vendors, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, demonstrations, kids' activities, lapidary rough, slabs, cabochons; contact SDLS, (619) 295-6905, or Kim Hutsell, (619) 294-3914; e-mail: info@sandiegolapidarysociety.org; Web site: www.sandiegolapidarysociety.org

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC, BARBECUE AND SILENT AUCTION



▲ The Club Picnic Lunch was a success. Members gathered and feasted on delicious barbecue and a table overflowing with salads, sides and desserts. The Silent Auction was a bigger hit! Two tables of donated rocks, slabs and crystals competed for bids, raising money for the Club. Thanks to everyone who donated items and those who participated in the annual event.



One of many gem books authored by Fred Ward. Fred and his wife, Charlotte are frequent presenters at CCRMC programs.

Welcome New Members

Charles Carmona Pam Leitner



▲ The Festival of Gems Show would not be complete without the charming, internationally known gem book author (The Fred Ward Gem Book Series) and former National Geographic photographer, Fred Ward. He was on hand with a complete assortment of his informative series of gem books. He has wonderful stories for every photo - and happily autographed purchases.

Officers for 2009

President - Rick Shaffer Vice President - Steve Dover Treasurer - Mary Ellen Shaffer Recording Secretary - Sue Acosta Corresponding Secretary - Grace Sato Federation Director - Anthony Ferrari Field Trips - Ellen Moe **Historian** - Bruce Mensinger Librarian - Ted Hanf Co-chair - Bruce Mensinger **Membership** - Leda Rogers Co-chair - Grace Sato Minerals - Nic Panagos Parliamentarian - Lucia Pasquinelli Photography - Leda Rogers Co-chair - Sylvia Binkley **Programs** - Ed Montgomery **Publications** - Lynne Lukert Co-chair - Barbara Fier **Show** - Robert Thirlaway **Publicity** - Robyn Hawk **Shop** - Bruce Mensinger Social - Sue Acosta Sunshine - Lili Gelberg **Trading Post** - Steve Dover Web Master - Anthony Ferrari Workshops Coordinator - Open

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dolores Dace (2009)

Bruce Mensinger (2010) Ellen Moe (2010)

Anthony Ferrari (2011) Leda Rogers (2011)

MEETING SCHEDULES

General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave. Enter from the rear door. Guests are always welcome.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* in a meeting room behind the Veterans Auditorium. All club members are welcome.

*Meeting days occasionally change due to Monday holidays or in July due to the Fiesta of Gems Show.

DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$25.00
Juniors	\$15.00
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Yearly Membership Dues:

Individuals	\$25.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$35.00
Juniors	\$10.00

(After July 1, dues are \$15.00, \$25.00 and \$5.00 respectively.)

SHOP INFORMATION

The shop is open to all members in good standing over the age of 13 (13-18 have certain restrictions) who sign an indemnification form. Instruction is available at all sessions. Practice slabs are available.

Location: 10866 Culver Blvd. in Culver City (behind the Boy Scout clubhouse and next to the paddle tennis courts)

Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611

Hours:

Tuesday	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Bruce Mensinger
Wednesday	10 am - 2 pm Vern Lowe - by appointment
Thursday	10 am - 2 pm Woody Shaffer
Saturday	Noon - 4 pm. Lynne Lukert

Saturday Noon - 4 pm Lynne Lukert Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm Bruce Mensinger

If no one shows, the shop may close early. If you plan to arrive at the shop more than a half hour after the opening time, phone the instructor.

The Nugget

The deadline for all submissions is generally the 15th of every month. All articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

The *Nugget* accepts paid advertisements by club members and non-members. The cost for an eighth of a page (approx. 2" high x 3.5" wide) is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ad layouts, copy or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month. Send materials directly to Lynne Lukert, Editor, 513 1/2 N. Norton Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004

Los Angeles, CA 90004 513 1/2 M. Norton Ave. Lynne Lukert, editor

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CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA **CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL** CLUB, INC.



FIRST CLASS



