

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



SEPT 2011

Monday, SEPT 12, 6:30 pm. Exec Committee
Monday, SEPT 12, 7:30 pm. General Meeting
Program: "Mineral Collecting Mecca"
Speaker: Justin Zzyzx

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer comes to a close it means that the club has completed another show and picnic, and our thoughts turn to cooler desert temperatures for collecting as well to the business side of the club. We'll be starting our annual search for club officers so we'll need a nominating committee, volunteers for the many open offices for 2012, and we need to start thinking about the club's holiday party in December.

For the nominating committee we'll need the committee members to call the general membership to find members to fill open offices that arise. Also, this same committee can locate co-chairpersons, as it's always easier for the chairperson to perform their duties when there's someone willing to help them out when they need the assistance. Our objective is that each chairperson has several co-chairs, thus giving each club member a chance to serve the club in some way. This might only be making telephone calls, helping with some type of EXCEL file using their computer, or just being a sounding board for the chairperson while different subjects are discussed. We're not looking for full-time working hours here, but just a few hours a month to help out.

As for our holiday party, we don't have a date for this year, but now's the time to get started so we have entertainment as in past years, as well as getting started with the menu. It's never too early to get started.

During our next meeting I hope to offer you at least

three trips our club could take this fall. From these three we all should be able to choose one. This will also allow for a discussion for additional trips in the remaining Fall/Winter time period. If you have something in mind, please send me an e-mail at www.maryellenandrick@aol.com. As a reminder, not everyone in our club has an RV or wants to travel hundreds of miles from L.A.

Here's hoping everyone had a fun and relaxing summer!

Rick Shaffer,
President

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Southern California -
Mineral Collecting Mecca
Speaker: Justin Zzyzx

What minerals can you collect less than 2 hours from downtown Los Angeles? Justin Zzyzx will show us how you can collect minerals from A (actinolite, agate, aquamarine) to Z (zeolites) with stops for barite, quartz and more practically in our backyard. Justin has educated and entertained our club before with his talk on Fakes and Forgeries. Whether you are a long-time collector or new to the club, you are guaranteed to enjoy Justin's talk and learn something new about the mineral treasures right here in So Cal. You can get a sneak preview of some of Justin's favorite locations at www.rockhoundingvideos.com.

Ellen Moe,
Program Chairman

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING AUG 8, 2011

- Those present: Rick and MaryEllenShaffer, Robert Thirlaway, Leda Rogers, Jan Ferguson, Lynne Lukert, Charlene Aspray, Merrill Barr, Jette Sorensen, Bruce Mensinger, Steve Dover, and Sue Acosta.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by president Rick Shaffer. The June minutes were approved as published in the Nugget.
- There is a problem with the dates for net year's Show. There is a conflict with the CFMS show in Riverside. Discussion ensued: available are either the last weekend in June or July or the usual date. For net year's Show there will be no rent increase. The club has to decide whether to keep the Show big like this year or go back to a smaller Show as in the past. Another problem is the lack of enough volunteers.
- Treasurer's report by Mary Ellen Shaffer - we are solvent.
- There was discussion: "Culver City vis-a-vis the Boy Scout House." There was a meeting to discuss the length of the lease. We, of course, would like it as long as possible. The Scout House is now OK. The matter is in the hands of the City Attorney. Perhaps the Council will take it up in October.
- Due to lack of volunteers, we will not participate in Fiesta Ballona this year.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.



Sue Acosta,
Recording Secretary



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING AUG 8, 2011

- The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by president Rick Shaffer who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - There being a quorum, the minutes were approved as published in the Nugget.
 - Visitors were introduced.
 - Due to a lack of volunteers, we will not participate in Fiesta Ballona this year.
 - The annual picnic will take place on Sunday, August 14th at Lindberg Park from 10-4. Directions to the park were given. There will also be a silent auction. The Club will provide the basic food and drinks with members bringing side dishes and desserts.
 - Prizes from the Show can be picked up tonight.
 - There will be a Trading Post tonight also.
 - The program will be presented tonight by the Hoskinsons on opals.
 - Show Chair Robert Thirlaway recognized members' contributions. However we really need more members to volunteer. The Show was very successful.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Sue Acosta,
Recording Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hi everyone!!! Hope this summer has been going great for all, pretty soon we should be able to go on a few field trips. CFMS is holding one this September 16 -18 going to Jade Cove. I plan on going with a couple of other CCRMC members and I hope to see a few more making the trip.

You can get all the information on the CFMS website <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>. Or call Robert Sankovich at 805 494-7734 or email him at rmsorca@adelphia.net.

It was nice to see so many make it to the BBQ for the club picnic! There was plenty of delicious food brought by all who attended. Steve Dover did a wonderful job with the silent auction gathering rocks and other material to be put up for bids. Thank you also goes to Flint Smith who brought burnishers and scrapers to be sold at a terrific bargain with the proceeds donated to the club (and his wife made nut rice krispy treats that were to die for). Also, thanks goes to all who donated rocks and slabs that were included in the auction.

Our membership has grown to 159 as of August 18th.

Grace Sato,
Membership Chairman

Here are our newest members:

Welcome!

Krystal L Leonard
Avery D. OckoMichalak
Gregor M. Losson
Diego Sandoval Espinosa
Jenna M Melfi
Marg Y. Stein
Cecilia Montiel
Rich Waters

PROGRAM REPORT

The program was presented by Leslie Neff and Larry Hoskinson on "Opals from Coober Pedy in South Australia". There is a mixture of towns with underground homes. Several were shown. The nice thing is that if you need more room, you just excavate more space. Various ways to mine opals were shown with their shafts. The temperature is 72 degrees all the time.

Next we had a travelogue tour of Australia with various animals, etc. The fence to keep the dingos out along with the emus.

There were also many pictures of opals. Mr. Hoskinson has a great sense of humor and that made the presentation even more entertaining. These notes are rather short because the lights were turned off and it was hard to see well enough to write.

Sue Acosta,
Recording Secretary

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Seth Bitting
- 4 Don Dohy
- 10 Fardedi Dowlatshahi
- 19 Barbra Hippensteel
- 28 Sigrid Russ
- 30 Harriet Earle

SHARING

Sharing is 'built-into' the core values that allow our club to exist and function. Most obvious is our shared interest in rocks and minerals. But there are myriad others. We share our knowledge and experience about where to find and how to work with these materials, our enthusiasm and our stories of all the finding, making and doing. We volunteer to make the Fiesta of Gems, the August picnic, and the Holiday party happen each year. Five times each week the lapidary shop and library are open. These are, each and every one, possible because we cooperate and share in the responsibility of operating these enterprises.

Focusing on the lapidary shop, this facility and the tools it contains are assets shared by all members who use them. In turn, all shop users are required to share in the maintenance of the facility and tools. While some maintenance requires specialized knowledge and skill, general house-keeping and cleaning-up after using tools and machines is required of every user every time. As part of the agreement, that everyone must agree to and sign anew each year, is that you have read and agree to abide by the shop rules which

clearly require that users, one-and-all, help with cleanup.

In addition, the shop is limited to the equipment on hand and in safe working order. Especially when the shop is crowded, users are expected to limit their use of resources so as to accommodate as many users as possible.

Some members have made the erroneous assumption that because there are fees for use of the shop and ad-



ditional charges for some equipment, that they are renting and thus entitled to use all they are willing to pay for. The shop fees are based on experience of the cost of the equipment and are collected to repair and replace what wears out. Also, to buy new equipment as

technology or usage dictates. No-one is paid, all instructors and repair-persons are volunteers.

As shop chairman I have tried to make 'the shop experience' safe, pleasant and productive for all users; especially for beginners and you who are trying out a new direction in your lapidary experience. Please recognize that the use of the shop is a shared experience, not a competition or a contest of who can hog the most resources.

Bruce Mensinger,
Shop Chairman

A Beryl of Monkeys

New England produces some of the world's largest specimens of this mineral, and New Hampshire has given it the honor of State Mineral. Beryl is also a common sight in some recent tourmaline mine pockets, due to where it is found. Beryl is often found in pegmatites, but it may also be found in mica schist and limestone in certain localities.

Beryl ranges from a 7.5 to an 8 on the Mohs hardness scale, and it has a specific gravity of 2.76 on average. It has a vitreous luster, and its streak is white. It is sometimes fluorescent, and will fluoresce yellow, light blue, purple, pink, or red. It has approximately eight varieties, all named according to their color.

The blue varieties are called aquamarine and maxixe, with the deeper blue varieties going by the latter. Some of the finest specimens of aquamarine come from Russia; however, it may also be found in the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya. When maxixe is exposed to the sun or heat treatments, it often loses its color. This can be returned using irradiation; the same method can be used to imitate maxixe using other varieties of beryl.

The green variety is hugely popular, and is known as emerald. They have been mined since ancient times in

Egypt, Austria, and India. They are generally quite brittle, as emeralds are commonly included. A rare variety, found in the mines of Colombia, exhibits a star pattern and is called a 'trapiche' emerald. Due to its popularity, there are two ways of making it using synthetic processes, hydrothermal and flux-growth.

Pale yellow to golden beryls are called golden beryl. They are also sometimes referred to as heliodor, but heliodor is more commonly the greenish-yellow shades of beryl. The



colorless variety is called goshenite, after its original point of discovery, in Massachusetts. In the past, it was sometimes used to make eyeglass lenses, due to its transparent nature.

Morganite is a rare variety that occurs in light pink to rose. It can also be referred to as 'pink beryl', 'rose beryl', 'pink emerald', and 'cesian/caesian beryl'. It was first discovered on

Madagascar in 1910, and has since been identified in the Pala district of California. It was named after J.P. Morgan by the New York Academy of Sciences. A 50 pound specimen was recovered in Maine in 1989. The final (described here, at least) variety is known as red beryl, or 'red/scarlet emerald'. It was first described in 1904 in Utah. It used to be referred to as bixbite, but this usage has been deprecated because it was being confused with bixbyite.

Minda Moe,
Mineral Chair

WEBSITE

It occurred to me that CCRMC has been part of the so-called Social Media for way longer than FaceBook and Twitter has been around. CCRMC's Yahoo Group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/ccrmc/>) was established in 1999. Brad Smith started it a couple of months after starting LA-Rocks (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LA-Rocks/>) on Yahoo Groups.

On these groups, you can get an email sent to you whenever there's a posting made, or, not wanting that, you can visit the group to catch up. The "old-fashioned" way of becoming an active part of a group like this is to "lurk" for a while before jumping in with a message or a reply. The groups are "moderated" – meaning that you can't use profanities or attempt to post messages unrelated to the group's purpose (Brad is the official Spam Guard.) This is a great way to get notified about meetings, trips and rock-hound sales.

Our FaceBook page, <http://www.facebook.com/CCRMC>, currently has 149 people who "like" it. The number of people who "like" the page grew tremendously during Charlene Aspray's amazing PR campaign leading up to the Fiesta of Gems in July. If you are on FaceBook, we suggest you "like" the CCRMC page so you can get all the latest scoop as well as reminders of club activities.

We don't have an official Twitter page, and since most Twitters get zillions of 140 max character Tweets on their Twitter page, I think that's a good thing – we don't want to get buried between Tweets about the latest celeb gossip and how the Tweeter feels at this particular moment.

And last, but not least, on the club's web page, <http://culvercityrocks.org>, we have little "post-it" notes on the front page, alerting you to when the current Nugget is available on line, the current monthly meeting's program and other items of importance.

Jette Sorenson,
Webmaster

BENCH TIPS

JUST A LITTLE BENCH TIP:

- The little 3" square steel bench block gets plenty of use and abuse. When I started to see scars on the face of my block I grabbed one of the magnetic 3" square advertisement (usually from lawyers) from the front of the new phone book and stuck it on the best side of the block. After a couple of years the block has one pristine (almost) side and one side that shows all the fun I've been having. When I need/want good, I still have it.

HOLDING SMALL ITEMS FOR DRILLING:

When drilling a small hole into a small piece, many folks try to hold the piece by hand. But if the drill sticks, the piece will start to spin and possibly slice your finger. Hav-



ing done this occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers to hold small pieces on the edge of the bench

pin or on a piece of wood when using the drill press.

RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

- Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife edge shaped wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle because it's never used in normal benchwork.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at: groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

FEDERATION REPORT

Become a Pro-Active, Rockhound Activist

As a fairly new rockhound, I sometimes get tired of hearing of all the great things you used to be able to find but the areas are now closed to rock hounding. The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies plays a big part in monitoring proposed laws which may affect rock hounding on public lands. The September CFMS Newsletter includes three articles related to how our government is affecting our hobby and what we can do.

In his monthly message, CFMS President Jin Brace-Thompson urges us to "Spread Facts, Not Confusion" and illustrates this with a recent thread of messages which appeared on the Yahoo Group LA-Rocks concerning group activities on BLM lands.

Another article lists numerous proposed bills concerning public lands. Do you want our elected officials to adopt policies for reasonable multi-use of public lands? This article gives ways your voice can be heard.



A third article describes the proposed California bill which will close 70 state parks including the Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa. Again, information is provided on how you can give your input.

For the full articles, please go to www.cfmsinc.org and click "Newletters". While you are the website, check out the other features available to us all through the CFMS

Ellen Moe,
Federation Chairman

SEPT SHOWS

SEPT 2-5: FORT BRAGG, CA

_ Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society
Town Hall

363 N. Main St, (corner of Main & Laurel)

Hours: Fri-Sun 10-6; Mon 10-4

SEPT 10-11: DOWNEY, CA

Delters Gem & Mineral Society

Woman's Club of Downey

9813 Paramount Blvd.

Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4

SEPT 17-18: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Pioneer Park & Museum

2010 Riverside Avenue

Hours: 10-5 daily

Website: <http://srockhounds.org>

SEPT 17-18: STOCKTON, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

Scottish Rite Masonic Center

33 W. Alpine Avenue

Hours: 10-5 daily

Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

SEPT 23-25: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society

Western Regional Little League Pa

6707 Little League Dr.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to Dusk daily

Website: <http://obmsrocks.yolasite.com>

SEPT 24-25: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds

2004 Fairgrounds Road

Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5

Website: www.cvgms.org

The purpose of the CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB is to bring together persons interested in the earth sciences, to engage in research and study in this realm, and to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.....<http://www.culvercityrocks.org>

Officers for 2011

- 2011 Slate of Officers**
 President - Rick Shaffer
 Vice-President - Steve Dover
 Treasurer - Mary Ellen Shaffer
 Recording Secretary - Sue Acosta
 Corresponding Secretary - Leda Rogers
 Education - open
 Federation Director - Ellen Moe
 Field Trips - open
 Historian - Bruce Mensinger
 Librarian - Bruce Mensinger
 Co- chair - open
 Membership - Grace Sato
 Minerals - Minda Moe
 Parliamentarian - Leda Rogers
 Photography - Sylvia Binkley
 Programs - Ellen Moe
 Publications - Lynne Lukert
 Co - Chair - Jan Ferguson
 Publicity - Charlene Aspray
 Shop - Bruce Mensinger
 Show - Robert Thirlaway
 Social - Sue Acosta
 Sunshine - Lili Gelberg
 Trading Post - Steve Dover
 Web Master - Jette Sorensen

Board of Directors:

Anthony Ferrari (2011)
Leda Rogers (2011)

Lynne Lukert (2012)
Woody Shaffer (2012)

Mary Ellen Shaffer (2013)
Robert Thirlaway (2013)

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 Bldg., 4117 Overland Ave. Enter from the rear door. Guests are always welcome.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of every month*in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg Auditorium. All club members are welcome.

*Meeting days occasionally change due to Monday holidays or, in July, because of the Fiesta Of Gems show (July 2007).

DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$25.00
Juniors	\$15.00

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 18 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	7:00pm - 9:30pm	Lynne Lukert
Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm	Vern Lowe (open by appointment)
Thursday	10:00am - 2:00pm	Woody Shaffer
Saturday	12:00am - 4:00pm	Lynne Lukert
Sunday	1:00pm - 4:00pm	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



the NUGGET

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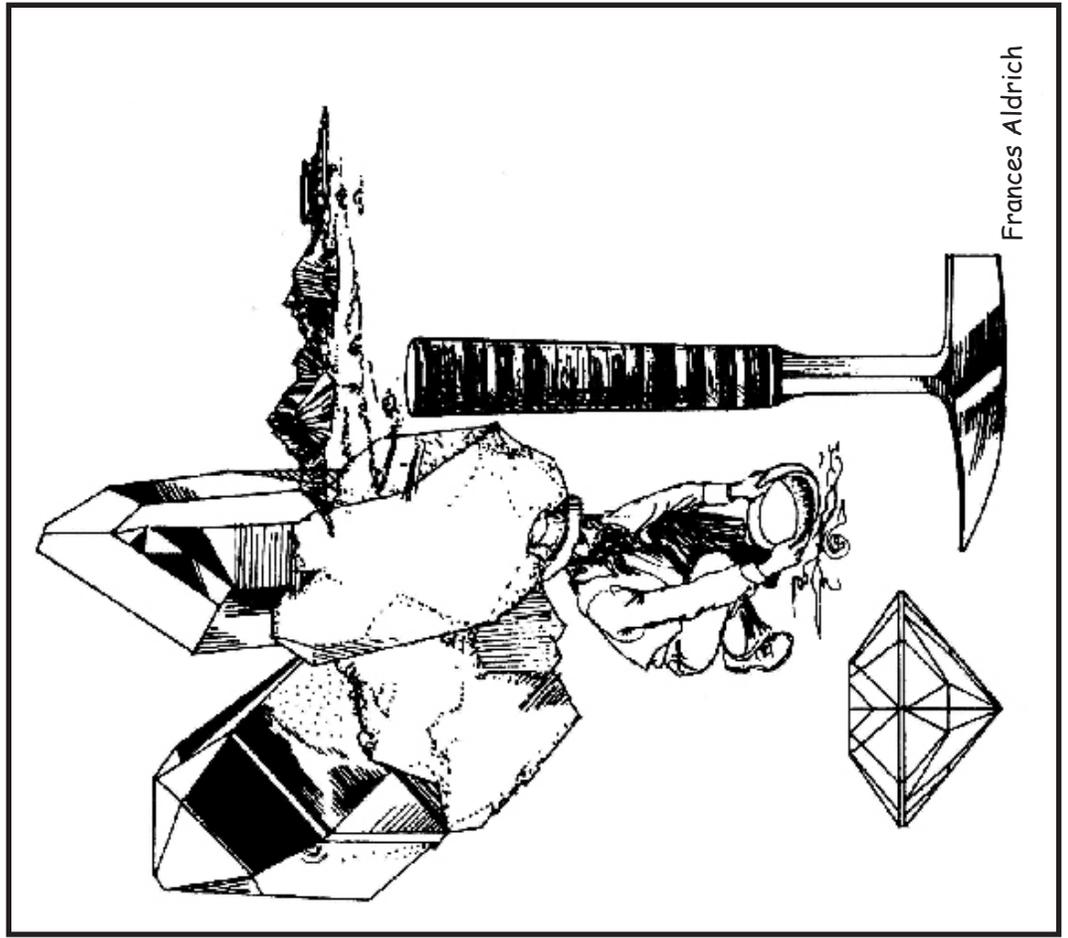
CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL
CR&MC CLUB, INC.
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS



CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

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Frances Aldrich