

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



# JULY 2014

**Monday, July 14,**  
**6:30 pm Executive Meeting**  
**7:30 pm General Meeting**  
**Program: "Valley of Rubies"**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, our show is only a week away and a half dozen last minute mini-crisis are cropping up every day. Without a dedicated team of club members to run our show, I would certainly be going crazy right now. Many, many thanks to all the club members who volunteer their time to do the work before, during, and after the show.

With summer upon us already, we are all looking forward to our picnic next month. The food is good, but my favorite is the silent auction we have of slabs, cabs and tools. Let us make this year's auction one to remember. Start cleaning out some of the old boxes of stuff you have in storage and donate a few specimens, slabs or jewelry items to the club.

**Brad Smith**  
**President**

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

Each year for our Fiesta of Gem shows, members participate in either buying or selling the raffle tickets. In turn this money is used to support our Club's local community projects. Please submit your raffle money if you haven't already done so.

**Thank you.**  
**The Editor.**

## JULY PROGRAM

### "Valley of Rubies" Gerard Pope

Burma's mountainous Mogok area known as the "Valley of Rubies" is a region which has produced some of the finest rubies, noted for their color including the rare pigeon's blood rubies and has been a source for a large variety of gem material for many centuries.

Gerard Pope will tell us about his recent trip to Mogok and the mines which have been closed to all non-Burmese people since the 1960's. Gerard will talk about the history and politics behind the mines, current embargo and the uncertain future of the Burmese Ruby.

Gems and Jewelry by Gerard Pope has been dealing with Burmese material for many years and Gerard will have a number of examples to show us. Be sure to visit his booth at the Fiesta of Gems show to see his full collection of gems.

**Charlene Aspray**  
**Program Chair**

## PROGRAM REPORT

There was no program at the June meeting; the evening was spent on activities in preparation for the show.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

### Filling grab bags



Also time to celebrate



### Mailing Postcards



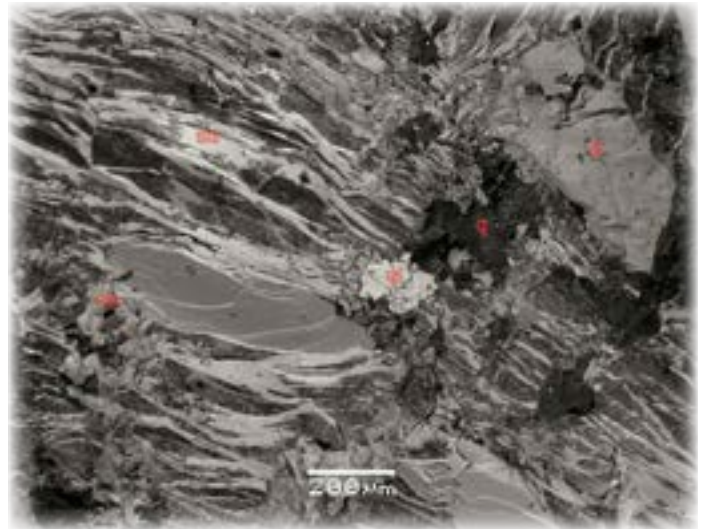
Photos by Bruce Mensinger

## MINERAL REPORT

### All for one, **Alforsite!**

Alforsite is found in central and Baja California. It is primarily found in Fresno, Mariposa, and Tulare Counties. It is found in sanbornite near granodiorite deposits, which are similar to granite but contain more plagioclase feldspar.

It is a member of the apatite group of minerals, so it is a 5 on the Mohs hardness scale. Its specific gravity is 4.73 to 4.80. It is colorless, with a white streak. Alforsite is commonly found in association with quartz, tourmaline, and pyrite.



Alforsite can be used to replicate lead contamination in soil without the harmful effects of lead. Due to this property, soil remediation practices can be used experimentally on alforsite-contaminated soil. These tests are mainly done with synthetic alforsite, as it is cheaper.

Alforsite was discovered in 1981. It is named after geologist John T. Alfors, who worked for the California state Department of Mines and Geology, in recognition for his extensive mineralogical research.

**Minda Moe**  
**Mineral Chair**

## BENCH TIPS

### SAWING SMALL TUBING

When making a hinged bracelet, I needed to cut 16 pieces of small diameter silver tubing. These were to be just approximate lengths and trimmed to final size after soldering. Not having a tube cutter, I had trouble holding the tubing on the bench pin while trying to saw through it.

So here's what I did. I drilled a hole in the side



of the bench pin just large enough for the tubing to slide into and almost as deep as the length of cut tubing I wanted. Sawing became quick and easy. With my free hand, I inserted the tubing and held it from rotating while sawing off each length.

### SECRET INGREDIENT

Those of us who use paste solders sometimes find an old tube has dried out. There should be some way to recondition it, but what to use? Calling tech support at the suppliers didn't work for me. Either they don't know what the ingredient is or won't tell you the secret.

None of us likes to waste an expensive material, especially at \$16 - 20 a tube, so I've often experimented with ways to rejuvenate it. Mixing in a liquid flux doesn't work. When the liquid starts to boil off, it spatters the solder in all directions.

But after several failed experiments I finally found a way that does work. My secret ingredient

is Vaseline petroleum jelly. Mix in just enough to restore the consistency to something that's usable. If you use too much, the lump of solder will flow over a wide area as soon as the torch starts heating it.



If your solder is in a syringe, it can be a little difficult to get the plunger out. I find the easiest way is to poke a hole through the solder from the tip to the rubber plunger (a bur shaft was the right size for my tube). The hole allows air to enter between the solder and the plunger, allowing the plunger to be slowly withdrawn. Once the solder is out of tube, you can easily add the Vaseline, mix it up, and spoon it back into the syringe.

*Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**Nancy Lee**

**Felice Ganz  
Membership Chair**

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**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2014**

Those present: Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Lynne Lukert, Bruce Mensinger, Janice Metz, Ellen Moe, Minda Moe, Lorraine Murphy, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Rick Shaffer, Brad Smith and Jette Sorensen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Brad Smith.

The May executive meeting minutes published in the June Nugget were approved with the following correction "The meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by Steve Dover."

**Treasurer Report:** Darrell Robb reported the Club was solvent and that all vendor payments had been received.

**2014 Budget:** Brad Smith reminded officers to develop a budget for their chairs and submit them to either him or Darrell Robb via email, for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

### **Show Reports:**

**Auditorium:** Brad Smith reported that the contract with the auditorium was ready to be signed, and permits had been obtained.

**Parking Permits:** Brad Smith indicated he was yet to obtain parking permits

**Publicity:** Janice Metz informed she used Eventbrite to distribute entries to the show. She also advertised the show in all Facebook groups and Yahoo groups, and contacted the Boys Scouts of LA, Girls Scouts of LA and Boys and Girls Club of LA, with positive feedback. Ms. Metz also placed the show on additional online calendars and several online publications. She has also been sending tweets about the show from the Club's Twitter account. Brad Smith reported that ads had been placed in several publications, but were yet to be published in The Argonaut and the LA Times.

**Hospitality:** Brad Smith reported that two food trucks had been arranged; one for each day of the show. Mary Ellen Shaffer indicated she had already purchased all food items, except perishables.

**Raffle Tickets:** Lynne Lukert informed she would have raffle ticket booklets for sale at the general meeting. She would also provide Jette Sorensen with a list of members who had paid for the tickets; Ms Sorensen would send out a reminder to those who had not.

**Plants Booth:** Lorraine Murphy informed she had many pots and plants for the plants booth.

**Geodes:** Ellen Moe informed the Club had received a donation of 50 pounds of geodes.

**Hourly Prizes:** Rick Shaffer and Minda Moe committed to buying the hourly prizes. They also decided to request prize donations from the Club members during the general meeting. Mary Ellen Shaffer indicated she needed to purchase one more roll of raffle tickets.

**Demonstrations/Classes:** Brad Smith indicated that one slot for a demonstration or class remained available on Sunday afternoon.

**Grab Bags:** A decision was made to maintain the price of the grab bags at \$1.

**Balloons:** Mary Ellen Shaffer confirmed she had obtained the balloons and gas tank.

**Cookies:** Mary Ellen Shaffer informed that Pete Stern and Kathy Mainzer would collect, package and distribute the cookies to the vendors.

Lynne Lukert requested that articles for The Nugget be submitted to her no later than 6/18, in order to get The Nugget published before the show.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm and a quorum was established.

One guest was introduced and welcomed.

The May general meeting minutes published in the June Nugget were approved as read.

Brad Smith asked people to sign up for several volunteer tasks. He also asked for book and magazine donations and indicated they could be brought to the shop or directly to the show on Friday

Mr. Smith asked people to donate items for the hourly prizes, such as jewelry, rock specimens etc. Items were to be delivered to Janelle Williams.

Lorraine Murphy asked members to donate small to medium size pots and plants, including flowers and ceramic pots. She asked for help to get the plants to the show on Friday morning from Santa Monica to Culver City; those interested in helping were to call or email Brad Smith. Ellen Moe asked members to bring small boxes and plastic bags to the show to help people take the plants home.

Brad Smith asked for volunteers to bake cookies, as a gift plate is traditionally offered to each vendor and much appreciated. Kathy Mainzer confirmed she and Pete Stern would collect, package and deliver the cookies. She asked that cookies be delivered to them on Tuesday and Wednesday before the show, so that they have time to package them on Thursday, for delivery on Friday to the vendors.

Lynne Lukert informed that she had mailed raffle ticket booklets to members; however the return address for payments was incorrect. She asked that payments be mailed to the Club's PO Box address published in The Nugget. She reminded that members were expected to purchase at least one booklet. Proceeds of raffle tickets sales are donated to the local community.

Charlene Aspray announced that the July guest speaker would be Gerard Pope and the August guest

speaker would be Justin Zzyzx.

A break was taken at 7:58pm, a raffle was held and the remainder of the evening was spent on placing address labels and stamps on post cards and filling grab bags in preparation for the show.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

## AUGUST PICNIC

**Our fabulous and famous August picnic and silent auction is just around the corner. Please do come and join us, there's lots of good food and conversation. Bring your favorite side, salad or dessert and whatever you want to drink (alcohol is not allowed in the park.) We supply the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. Please bring donations for the auction if you have any extra rough, slabs, cut and polished rocks, books, jewelry and supplies. Check our website for the date and place.**

## JULY BIRTHDAYS (July Birthday is Ruby)



Joy J. Tanigawa	7/02
Noelle Weil	7/02
Vicki Grimsland	7/04
Dower JaiGervais	7/05
Beatrice Jones	7/08
Heather Barber	7/15
Janet A.Louie	7/16

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## SHOP NEWS

### Shop schedule:

The shop will be open as scheduled this month. Nevertheless, continue to check our website for closures and time changes at [HTTP://www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org) or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

### Equipment Availability

As of June 18 (as I write this report) all shop equipment is in good working order and ready for you to use.

### Projects update

No changes in the past month.

1) Trim saws oil mist: The inline radial fan and metal inlet installed in the existing duct for the left-side 10-inch trim saw is working well. In addition, the main exhaust fan, cleaned to promote better airflow has increased air flow very noticeably. A second inline fan and inlet will follow for the right-side 10-inch trim saw.

2) New oil test in two slab saws and one trim saw: The new-candidate-oil allergy and odor testing continue to be satisfactory. Misting is greater than previously but the improved air-flow has mooted that problem. The continuing test of blade cooling and life in the 24-inch and 16-inch slab saws continues. Testing to date has uncovered no problems to converting the remaining saws.

3) The main remaining construction is installation of rain gutters, installing irrigation and sod in front of the Scout House (please, stay on the walkways), and additional asphalt sealer.

4) A bonus project was described in last month's shop report but inadvertently had several lines cut out. This was rebuilding the block wall between the city gardens and our site. The project was discussed, approved and completed. The wall has been restored to new condition. Thank you, Tony.

5) Call for volunteers; Jette Sorensen is leading a

shop beautification and clean-up initiative. Its main goals are repair and replacement of water damaged ceiling panels, painting, and evaluation of what equipment to keep. We have several volunteers but more are needed. Contact Jette for more details. [jetsorensen@gmail.com](mailto:jetsorensen@gmail.com)

Limited parking in back of the shop is open for use. Park on the asphalt, off the alley concrete to avoid a parking citation. Please respect the space reserved for the shop instructor next to the paddle-tennis court.

**On behalf of the Shop Committee,  
Bruce Mensinger**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**June 28 - 29: CULVER CITY, CA  
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium**

**4117 Overland Ave**

**Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5**

**Contact: Janice Metz**

**Email: [janicemtz@yahoo.com](mailto:janicemtz@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm](http://www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm)**

## No shows July

August 1 - 3: NIPOMO, CA  
Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria  
Nipomo High School  
525 North Thompson Avenue  
Hours: Fri/Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Wes Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788, Cell  
(805) 710-1983  
Email: [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

August 23 - 24: SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
S. F. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park  
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5  
Contact: Ellen Nott  
Email: [ellen\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_nott@yahoo.com)

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 2014

President - Brad Smith  
Vice President - Steve Dover  
Treasurer - Darrell Robb  
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Corresponding Secretary - Leda Rogers  
Education - Joe Porrazzo  
Federation Director - Ellen Moe  
Field trips - Co-Chairs Rocky and Cole Rhodes  
Historian - Bruce Mensinger  
Librarian - Bruce Mensinger  
Membership - Felice Ganz  
Minerals - Minda Moe  
Parliamentarian - Jette Sorensen  
Photography - Bruce Mensinger  
Programs - Charlene Aspray  
Publications - Lynne Lukert  
Co-Chairs Barbara Fier and Jan Ferguson  
Publicity: Janice Metz  
Show - Brad Smith (Acting Show Chair)  
Shop Committee (President, Vice President,  
Committee members)  
Social - Mary Ellen Shaffer  
Co-Chair Grace Sato  
Sunshine - Leda Rogers  
Trading Post - Steve Dover, Co-Chair Minda Moe  
Web Master - Jette Sorensen

### Board of Directors:

Ellen Moe (2014)  
Bruce Mensinger (2014)  
Rick Shaffer (2015)  
Jette Sorensen (2015)

### Where to contact us:

Phone: (310) 836-4611

Snail Mail address: P.O. Box 3324

Culver City, CA 90231

FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/CCRMC](http://www.facebook.com/CCRMC)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks](http://www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks)

Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ccrmc/>

### 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, 601 N. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004

## MEETING SCHEDULE

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.

## 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. Junior members (13 - 18) must be accompanied by an adult. 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 – 9:30 pm	- Bruce Mensinger
Wednesday	10 am – 2 pm	- Shop Temporary closed
Thursday	10 am – 2 pm	- Woody Shaffer
Saturday	Noon – 4 pm	- Lynne Lukert
Sunday	Noon – 4 pm	- Rick Shaffer

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



# the NUGGET

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CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL  
CLUB, INC.

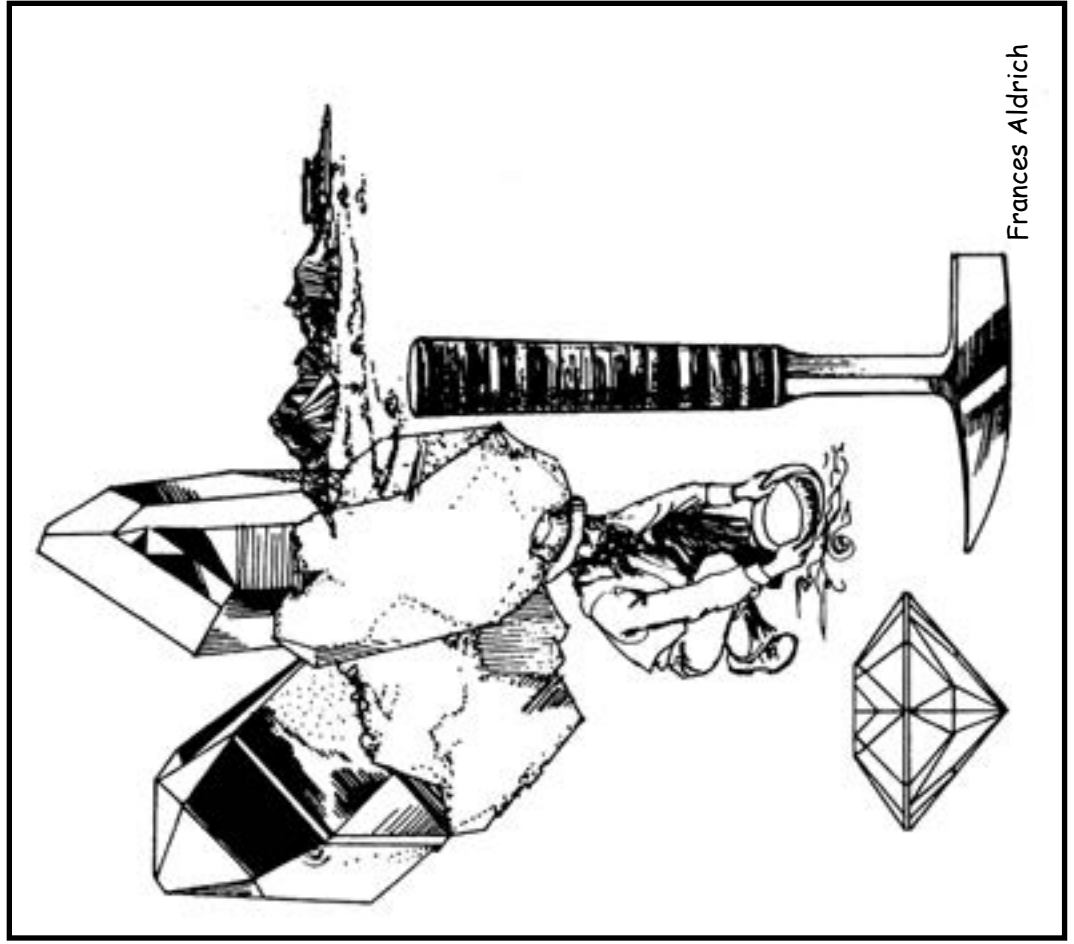
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Address Change Requested

The Nugget  
P.O. Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231



Frances Aldrich