

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



SEPTEMBER 2014



Monday, September 8, 2014

6:30 pm Executive Meeting

7:30 pm General Meeting and Program:

"Amethyst Deposits of Thunder Bay, Ontario"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month we're wrapping up our summer activities with a picnic on September 20th at Lindberg Park in Culver City. This is an annual event for the club and a great time for our new members to get to know others in the club.

There'll be plenty to do for the kids, so please bring the whole family. The pot luck lunch will be set up in the pavilion, and the silent auction nearby. Plenty of free parking surrounds the park.

I, for one, really enjoy the silent auction, and this year should be exceptional. It's a good time to clean out your garage or basement and donate to the auction. We particularly like books, magazines, cabochons, specimens, slabs, tools and equipment, but feel free to bring whatever hobby-related items you have.

On another note, field trip season will be on us soon. If there's a place you've heard of that sounds interesting, please let me know, and we'll see if we can organize a trip. At the last meeting, I mentioned one of my favorite shows that is coming up soon with a couple digs that are not found in any other place. The show is in Trona, CA on October 11 & 12, and the dig is on Searles Dry Lake, for their world famous salt crystals. These are big, showy specimens, and the dig is a blast for the whole family (if you don't mind playing in water and mud). See some examples at www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Flyer.htm

Brad Smith
President



Join Us! ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC and Silent Auction

Saturday, Sept. 20

10 am – 4 pm

Lindberg Park

5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City



Bring a side dish, salad, fruit or veggies; soft drink or water; and donations for the Silent Auction.

Burgers, hot dogs, buns, plates, utensils and condiments are provided.

SEPTEMBER 8 PROGRAM

Richard Weber presents **"Amethyst Deposits of Thunder Bay, Ontario"**

Join us and learn about the largest commercial deposits of amethyst in North America that occur near the Canadian border in Southern Ontario. Unlike the more common Brazilian amethyst, this material is unique due to inclusions of red hematite in the outermost layers of the crystals.

Dick Weber first visited these deposits in the 70s while studying for his graduate degree in Geology at the University of MN, Duluth. He has returned several times over the years and on two recent visits was given special access to the workings of the deposit by the mine owners. As part of this presentation he will display some of this highly prized amethyst from his personal collection.

Charlene Aspray
Program Chair

MINERAL REPORT

Common and Shiny

The earliest recorded use of mica is in Upper Paleolithic (40,000 BC to 10,000 BC) cave paintings. It was one of the ingredients used to make white paint. Native Americans used mica in architecture and in pottery. The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan contains mica layers up to 12 inches thick. Mica flakes are used in Pakistan to embellish women's summer clothes.

The most prominent characteristic of mica is its nearly perfect cleavage. There are thirty-seven different mica minerals. The color of any variety of mica is influenced by its mineral composition. Muscovite, the most common form of mica, has a Mohs hardness of 2.5 and a specific gravity of 2.7-3.

Mica's name was most likely influenced by the Latin verb *mico*, which means "to glitter". It can be found in specimens from each basic rock type. The largest single crystal of mica was found in Ontario, Canada; it weighed approximately 330 metric tons.

In 19th century Europe, large crystals of mica were rare and expensive. This changed once large reserves were found in Africa and South America during the early 19th century. Large sheet mica mines existed in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine. Today, most sheet mica is produced in India and Russia. The most important sources of sheet mica are pegmatite deposits.

Mica is stable under many conditions, with superior electrical properties as an insulator and as a dielectric. Muscovite mica is used in high frequency and radio electrical capacitors. Phlogopite mica is stable up to 900° Celsius, and is used when high-heat stability and electrical properties are required. In the construction industry, mica is used in joint compound for filling seams in drywall. It is also used as a drilling fluid additive in the well-drilling industry, as the coarse flakes seal porous sections of the hole and prevent the loss of circulation.



Mica is used in joint compound for filling seams in drywall.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

SHOP NEWS

Shop Schedule

The shop will be open as scheduled, except some Wednesdays when it might be closed. Continue to check our website for closures and time changes at www.culvercityrocks.org, our Facebook page or Yahoo group or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

Equipment Availability

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

Shop Committee Meeting

The Shop Committee met on August 13.

- 1) We arranged Instructor schedules to fill-in for vacations and other absences. Our need for additional Instructors and substitutes was discussed.
- 2) Rule changes for instructor's use of the shop and equipment was discussed and will be implemented.
- 3) Oil use and full transition to the mineral oil in test was agreed on. An order for purchase of more mineral oil was agreed on. Remaining used Pella A will be sold.

Projects Update

- 1) Big rock and Girl Scout's Storage Shed: The Scouts requested that we move the big rock from the grassy area next to the City Gardens to the area in front of the Scout House just below the signs. I moved the rock; now it is located below the sign pointing to the walkway leading to our shop entrance. The Scouts will move the smaller rock and install a storage shed in the area next to our older shed and the city gardens.
- 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.

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3) The main remaining construction is installation of rain gutters and additional asphalt sealer. Lawn planting in front of the Scout House has produced a luxuriant lawn; please stay on the paved walkways.

4) 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



Photo by Bruce Mensinger

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**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to our new members. We have a total of 151 members in our club. I hope that everyone joins us at our annual picnic & silent auction. It is always a fun get together!

Welcome New Members

- Angel Amulis-Hodel
- Leobardo Cortes
- Michelle Hutchinson
- Nickie Jessup
- Amanda Jones
- Ivan Rozo
- Carole Sumler



Treasures! Valuable Silent Auction items await your winning bid at this month's Annual Club Picnic and Silent Auction on Sept. 20.



The Annual Fiesta of Gems Show is run mainly by Culver City Rock & Mineral Club volunteers.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|------|
| Challis Macpherson | 9/09 |
| Darren Siegel | 9/17 |
| Sarah Lizer | 9/18 |
| Barbra Hippensteel | 9/19 |
| Aubree Galbiso | 9/20 |
| Bobo Wince | 9/21 |
| Liz Leshin | 9/22 |
| Franne Einberg | 9/24 |

MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING August 11, 2014

- Those present: Charlene Aspray, Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Lynne Lukert, Bruce Mensinger, Darrell Robb, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Brad Smith and Jette Sorensen. The meeting was called to order at 6:53 pm by Brad Smith.
- The July executive meeting minutes published in the August Nugget were approved as read.
- Treasurer Report: Darrell Robb reported the Club was solvent.
- Summer Picnic: Brad Smith confirmed the Club picnic would take place on 9/20 from 10 am to 4 pm.
- Corresponding Secretary: Rick Shaffer volunteered for the Corresponding Secretary position, which was vacant.
- Membership Report: Felice Ganz indicated the Club had 142 members as of end of July. She reported that the badge supplier intended to raise the price of badges due the complexity of the badge design. A discussion followed regarding alternatives, such as surveying other suppliers and making badges optional for a fee. Brad Smith committed to researching other suppliers; meanwhile new badge orders were to be put on hold.
- Program Report: Charlene Aspray informed that the September speakers would be Richard and MaryPat Weber, who would discuss amethysts from Ontario, Canada. The October speaker would be Stan Sholik, author of the book "Shoot Macro: Professional Macrophotography Techniques for Exceptional Studio Images," who would discuss techniques for photographing gem and mineral specimens.
- Publications Report: Jette Sorensen announced she would be publishing The Nugget on behalf of Lynne Lukert for a few months. Articles were thus supposed to be submitted to her, Barbara Fier and Jan Ferguson; Ms. Lukert was to be copied on the submissions. Ms. Lukert informed it was often necessary for her to remind article providers to make their submissions in a timely fashion. Brad Smith committed to send reminders every month.
- Workshops: Brad Smith reported that the Club had held nine successful workshops this year, with a combined attendance of 70 people. Two additional workshops were scheduled for August and September.
- New Business: Bruce Mensinger suggested that the Club sell the oil that will no longer be used at the shop. Additionally, a motion was made by Jette Sorensen and approved, to purchase web hosting

services for three years.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**
Recording Secretary

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING August 11, 2014

- The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm, the pledge of allegiance was held and a quorum was established.
- The July general meeting minutes published in the August Nugget were approved as read.
- President Brad Smith announced that the Club's summer picnic would take place on 9/20 from 10 am to 4 pm at Lindberg Park in Culver City. A silent auction would also take place at the picnic.
- Brad Smith reported that the Club had held nine successful workshops this year, and two others were scheduled for August 30 and September 13. Additional information would be sent via email to Club members.
- Brad Smith requested that articles for publication in The Nugget were submitted timely.
- Program Chair Charlene Aspray informed that the September speakers would be Richard and MaryPat Weber, who would discuss amethysts from Ontario, Canada. The October speaker would be Stan Sholik, author of the book "Shoot Macro: Professional Macrophotography Techniques for Exceptional Studio Images," who would discuss techniques for photographing gem and mineral specimens.
- Several members expressed interest in field trips; Brad Smith committed to finding out about trips organized by other clubs.
- On behalf of the Nomination Committee, Jette Sorensen asked new members to become involved in the various committees of the Club and asked those interested to contact her at webmaster@culvercityrocks.org. Photography Chair Bruce Mensinger asked for support as Club photographer.
- Membership Chair Felice Ganz indicated the Club had 142 members as of end of July, excluding new membership forms pending processing.
- Five guests were introduced and welcomed.
- A break was taken at 7:56 pm and a raffle was held before the meeting resumed for the August Program.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**
Recording Secretary

House Sitter/Caretaker
Available for the Right
Person/House/Pet

If you need a high-quality person for companionship, or to look after an elderly person, or house, or pet sitting, I'm your woman. I'm looking for a live-in position in a quiet and positive household. I can help with light house duties or shopping in exchange for a room. 4 month minimum, longer if it works out. If you need someone who is responsible, quiet, clean, cheerful and considerate, I'm your person. I have superb personal references, including Gary Mitchell.
(323) 528-8771

PROGRAM REPORT

Program Chair Charlene Aspray introduced the August guest speaker, Justin Zzyzx, who discussed agate locations in Southern California. He began by explaining how agates are commonly formed in basalt and, more rarely, in sedimentary deposits. Among the locations where agate can be found, Mr. Zzyzx cited Acton, Barstow, Boron, Cady Mountains, Castle Butte, Gem Hill, Horse Canyon, Kanan Road (Santa Monica Mountains), Malibu, Palos Verdes and Fort Irwin. Mr. Zzyzx's lively presentation was illustrated by several maps and photos of agate specimens found in each location. Mr. Zzyzx also showed a video from a ten-episode series he has produced, called "Cut That Agate."

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**
Recording Secretary

Help Wanted!

**Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Volunteers Needed**

Get involved

Have fun

Meet new people

**For information, please email:
webmaster@culvercityrocks.org**

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 20 – 21: Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair Street, Oroville
Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net
www.featherriverrocks.org

September 27 – 28: Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Road
Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net
www.cvgms.org

September 27 – 28: Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Wells Fargo Center for the Art
50 Mark West Springs Road
Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Email: Jolene@srmgs.org
www.srmgs.org

September 27 – 28: Lodi, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
413 East Lockford Street
10 - 5 daily
Email: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com
www.stocktonlapidary.com

October 1 – 5: Joshua Tree, CA

Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley
Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree
6225 Sunburst Street
9 - 6 daily
Email: HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com
www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gemshow.htm

October 10 - 12: Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society Craft Show
Reno Town Hall
Corner of Peckham & So. Virginia Street
Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3
Email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com
www.renorockhounds.com

BENCH TIPS

Make Your Own Silver Solder from Scrap

Sometimes you need a lot of silver solder to complete a piece the way you want it to be. For me it was when I was trying to join several castings. But silver solder is expensive, so I found a way to make my own from scrap with a little help from a penny.

First step is finding out what's in solder. A search through the reference books (Tim McCreight or Erhard Brepohl) or a Google search will turn up recipes like:

- * Hard - AG 80% CU 13% ZN 7%
- * Medium - AG 70% CU 20% ZN 5%
- * Easy - AG 63% CU 30% ZN 7%

The silver (AG) and the copper (CU) are easy to come by, but finding some zinc (ZN) has always been my problem until I found out that our pennies are almost all zinc. According to Wikipedia a US penny minted after 1982 weighs 2.5 grams and is 97.5% ZN and 2.5% CU. So all I had to do is add a penny to some copper and a pile of silver scrap.

I chose to use Sterling scrap so I adjusted for the amount of copper in it as well as the amount of copper from the penny.

Here's what I used for components of Medium solder:

- * Sterling - 36.90 grams
- * Copper - 9.35
- * Penny - 2.50

Melt the silver and copper first in a melting dish, mix well with a carbon rod or titanium solder pick, add the zinc (penny) last, mix again, and pour into a small mold. The zinc is added last because melting it causes some to vaporize, and the fumes are a safety problem (They're a gray-green color). Be sure to have good ventilation.

To check the solder's melting temperature was correct (medium), I put a sample of the homemade solder on a piece of copper sheet along with a known sample of hard, medium and easy solders. I then heated the plate from the bottom and watched as the easy first melted, the medium melted, the homemade



melted, and finally the hard.

Additional notes on converting the ingot to sheet, strip or wire form - If you have access to a rolling mill, that will be the fastest way to proceed. Either roll out the ingot into a sheet and cut strips or roll it out as wire if your mill has the grooves. If you don't



have a mill, all you have to do is forge out the ingot into a rough sheet of the gauge you'd like and then cut thin strips with bench shears. Be sure to anneal the sheet every so often as you forge it.

Spot Sanding Brush

Sometimes you have a little discoloration or debris to clean from the bottom of a pocket, from an area of coarse textured surface, or from a small space between two soldered objects. Finding something to get into those close areas is always an effort in creativity.

One tool I have for these special occasions is a glass fiber spot sanding brush. It's great for cleaning a small area and doesn't leave deep scratches, only a faint satin finish.

There's probably several manufacturers of these pens, but one is the PrepPen Adjustable Sanding Pen selling for US\$ 7.96 from Amazon. You can see it at <http://www.amazon.com/Prep-Pen-PrepPen-Adjustable-Sanding/dp/B000J18RT6/>

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com or at <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>



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 - Rick Shaffer
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

Twitter: 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* at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg. Auditorium. All club members are welcome.

*Meeting days occasionally change due to federal 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 temporarily 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.

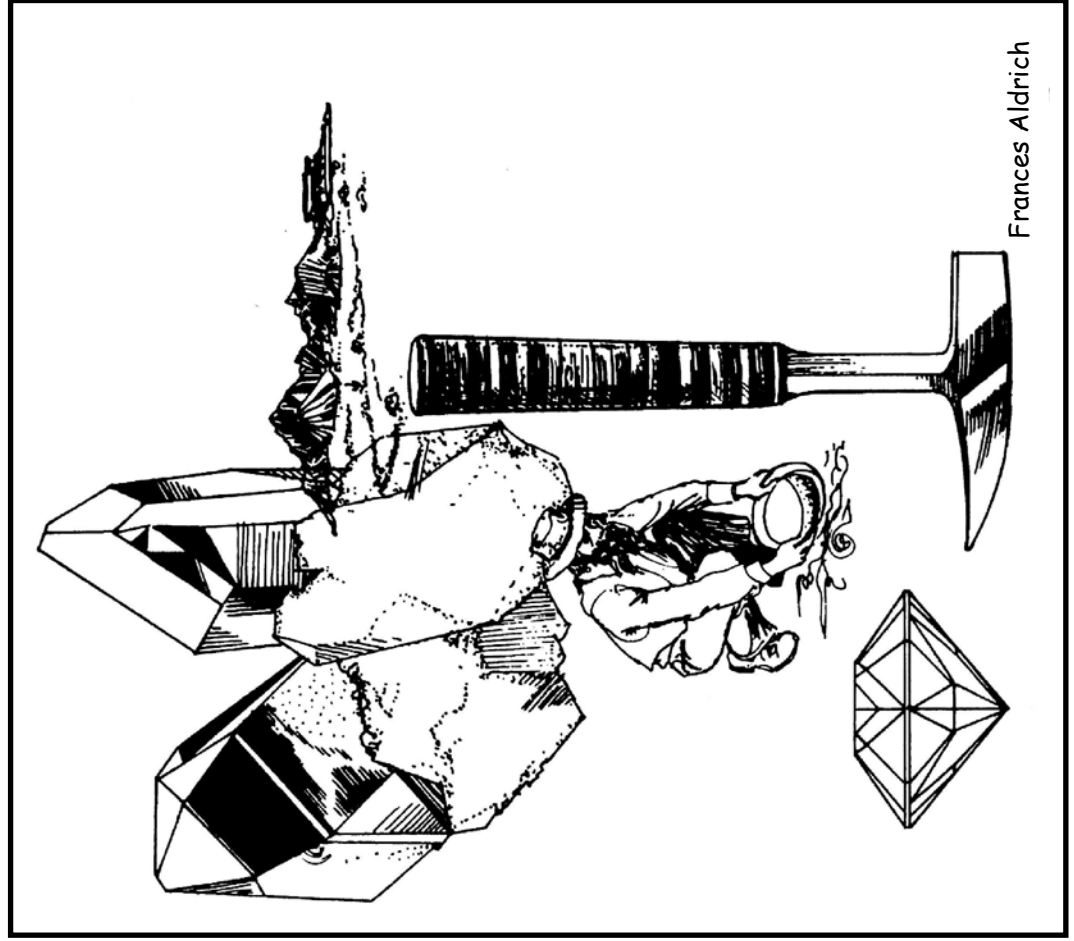
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Address Change Requested

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



Frances Aldrich