

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



JANUARY 2015

Monday, January 12, 2015
6:30 pm Executive Meeting
7:30 pm General Meeting and Program:
"Arizona's Petrified Forest"



JANUARY 12 PROGRAM

Steve Wolfe presents
Arizona's Petrified Forest

Join us at our next meeting to learn about the Chinle formation and the Arizona Petrified Forest National Park. Steve Wolfe will talk about the formation, age, petrified wood, history of the park and surrounding areas. Steve will have photos to show and a few samples of petrified wood on display.

Steve Wolfe of Wolfe Lapidary is an expert in petrified wood. Wolfe Lapidary is a family business focusing on minerals, fossils, agates, petrified wood and cabochons. www.wolfelapidary.com

Charlene Aspray
Program Chair



"Walker's Stump" in Arizona Petrified National Forest. Image source: National Park Service at: <http://www.nps.gov/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello CCRMC members and enthusiasts – here's hoping you all had a great holiday season and wishing everyone a very Happy 2015! Thank you all for your trust and support for this new job as President of the Club, they are big shoes to fill.

My goal this year is to get to know everyone a little better and to make our monthly meetings fun and informative. We have a great tradition with the annual Fiesta of Gems show and I look forward to the planning meetings that will begin soon. We'll work hard to make sure everyone gets all the support they need. Our Club has a well deserved reputation for putting on a good show for the attending public and it all derives from the great service we provide our vendors. Let's make this another memorable event for Culver City and all the rock hounds and hounds to be.

One of my favorite interests is astronomy. With all the amazing advances in optical and radio telemetry the past few decades capturing incredible images of super clusters of galaxies and other celestial phenomena-- it is just as fascinating exploring our Earth's geology and imagining the similarities that occur elsewhere.

Our monthly forum of expert speakers has enriched all of us with the wonders of geology and the many facets of careers and hobbies with gems and minerals. We all look forward to 2015 and learning a lot more in the Earth-based sciences.

Again, very best wishes for the New Year.

Darrell Robb
President

MINERAL REPORT: RUTILE

You may have encountered this mineral before as a component of rutilated quartz. Rutile appears as sprays of thin needles within some quartz specimens. Small rutile needles in gems are responsible for the phenomenon known as asterism, the effect of which is more commonly referred to as a “star” in the gem.

Rutile is composed mostly of titanium dioxide, and is the most common natural form of that oxide. It can contain significant amounts of iron, niobium, and tantalum. The two rarer polymorphs are known as anatase and brookite. Rutile is very thermodynamically stable.

The name “rutile” comes from the Latin word for red, “rutilus”, as certain specimens exhibit a deep red color. It is a 6.0 on the Mohs scale of hardness, with an uneven or sub-conchoidal fracture. The luster varies between adamantine and submetallic, while the streak is either bright or dark red.

Rutile is often found in igneous rocks and in



Wine red rutile crystals from Binn Valley in Switzerland. Image source: Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rutile>

high-temperature/high-pressure metamorphic rocks. It is a common accessory mineral in plutonic igneous rocks, but occasionally is found in extrusive igneous rocks. Specimen-quality crystals are most often associated with pegmatites, skarns, and granite greisens.

Rutile is utilized in the manufacture of certain optical elements for longer wavelengths because of its high refractive indice, large birefringence, and high dispersion. It is also used as a pigment and in the production of titanium metal. When finely powdered, rutile makes a bright white pigment. The world’s largest producer of rutile is the Republic of Sierra Leone in West Africa.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

SHOP NEWS

Shop Schedule

The shop will be open as scheduled, except on some Wednesdays. 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 Dec. 18, all shop equipment is in good working order except for the kiln and the 24-inch saw.

As reported last month, gradual deterioration of the firebrick insulation and corrosion from heated moisture have taken their toll. The deteriorated firebrick is being replaced with more durable material. Proper use of the kiln will greatly reduce this source of deterioration. Heat the kiln fully before loading the flask you wish to burn out. This preheats the vent and walls so corrosive moisture will not condense in or on the kiln walls.

The 24-inch saw is still out of service due to blade damage. We are purchasing, among other supplies; new saw blades in January at Quartzsite. As soon as they arrive I will install one and the saw will be ready to use again.

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.

Shop Fees

Your shop fees pay for what needs to be bought to repair or replace what wears out, is used-up, or is broken and new equipment plus utilities. The workroom part of the shop is fee supported; the storage areas and utilities are a shared cost with the whole Club. Labor by Club members to operate and maintain the shop is voluntary (unpaid). Over the years, various talented Club members have repaired and built equipment for our shop, thus sparing us the expense to maintain our shop. Many other Clubs are not so fortunate.

On behalf of the Shop Committee,
Bruce Mensinger

New Year's Resolutions:

- Learn new skills
- Get involved
- Have fun
- Meet new people

We Need Volunteers

Please Join Us!

For information, email:
webmaster@culvercityrocks.org

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kodiak Starkey	1/02
Peter Stern	1/04
Aaron J Gonzales	1/09
Shiranda Zee	1/12
Jonathan Shaham	1/16
Liese C. Aufill	1/19
Eric Senchuk	1/19
Flint Smith	1/22
Christi Billups	1/29
Eileen Karrigan	1/31
Steve Willing	1/31

BENCH TIPS

Solvent Dispenser

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes can't be too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers when you search Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com

The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 ml.

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



2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership fees are yearly dues for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Renewal is due Jan. 1.

Members not renewing their membership by the end of the March meeting will not be "in good standing" as of the day after the March meeting and will no longer receive the Nugget, will not be allowed to use the shop and will pay non-member prices for workshops.

Before all that bad stuff happens, renew your membership today! Renewal forms are available on the website, click the link at the bottom of the membership page.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Listed below are the workshops scheduled so far. The Club is working to schedule additional workshops.

Information on individual workshops will be posted on the website, FaceBook Page, Yahoo Group and Twitter. For the URLs, see page 5 under **Contact Us**.

- January 17 - Riveting with Jette Sorensen
- January 24 - Chain Maille with Brad Smith
- March 1 - Beading with Janice Metz
- May 23 - Beading with Janice Metz

UPCOMING SHOWS

January 17 - 18: Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building
324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hwy 65
Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm
Contact: Bill Bingaman, (559) 741-6381
Email: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: www.tulegem.com

February 13 - 22: Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Cabazon
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
82-503 Highway 11
10 am - 10 pm daily
Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

PROGRAM REPORT: HOLIDAY PARTY AND WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE

Holiday dinner was delicious with ham, turkey and ribs, a variety of side dishes and abundant desserts. In his usual generous style, John Riordan donated the \$100 candy jar raffle prize again this year. The 2015 Club officers were installed and pictures were taken. The traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange was a lot of fun. We extend our gratitude to the Rotary Plaza staff for hosting us for our Annual Holiday Party.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**
Recording Secretary



Max won the \$100 candy jar and Adrienne has plans for her new tools.



Installation of Club Officers at the Holiday Party: Bruce, Jette, Steve, Leda, Darrell, Ana Maria, Felice, Grace, Joyce and Rick. Other officers and chair persons were not in attendance.

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>

Elected Officers for 2015

President - Darrell Robb

Vice President - Jette Sorensen

Treasurer - Franne Einberg

Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes

Corresponding Secretary - Jan Ferguson

Education - Joe Porrazzo

Historian - Bruce Mensinger

Parliamentarian - Ellen Moe

Committee Chairs

Federation Director - Rick Shaffer

Field trips - Open

Librarian - Bruce Mensinger

Membership - Felice Ganz

Minerals - Minda Moe

Photography - Bruce Mensinger

Programs - Charlene Aspray

Publications - Co-Chairs Barbara Fier,

Jan Ferguson, Jette Sorensen

Publicity: Janice Metz

Show - Brad Smith

Shop Committee (President, Vice President,
Committee members)

Social - Grace Sato

Co-Chair - Joyce Watanabe

Sunshine - Leda Rogers

Trading Post - Steve Dover

Web Master - Jette Sorensen

Board of Directors:

Rick Shaffer (2015) Jette Sorensen (2015)

Leda Rogers (2016) Steve Dover (2015)

Contact Us:

Phone: (310) 836-4611

Address: P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/CCRMC

Twitter: www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks

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

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, to accommodate the Fiesta Of Gems Show.

DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$35.00
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	- By appointment. Check website, Yahoo Group, FaceBook or Twitter for status.
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

The deadline for submissions is 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. 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 to Culver City Rock and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231, Attention: Editor.



the NUGGET

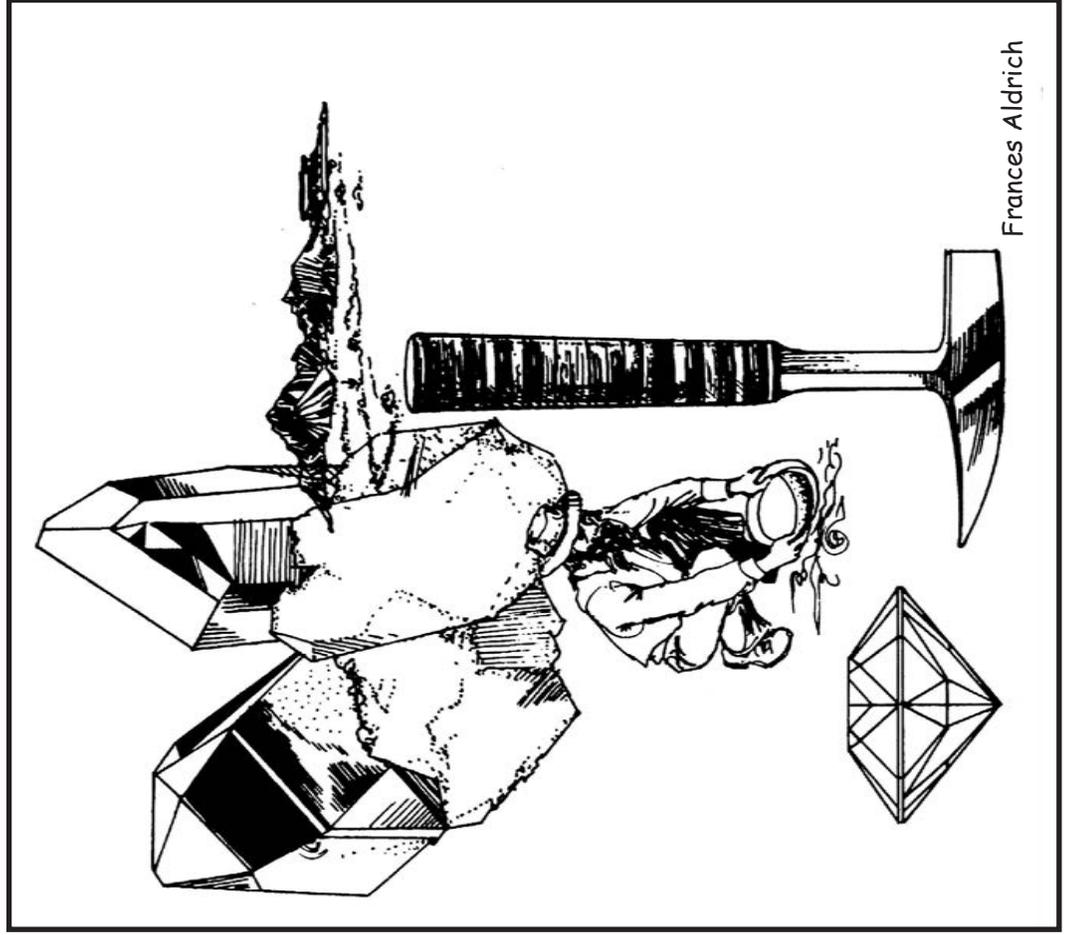
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CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL
CLUB, INC.
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
The Nugget
P.O. Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231
Address Change Requested



Frances Aldrich