



The CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, located in Culver City, California, brings together persons interested in the earth sciences to engage in research and study, to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.



## October Virtual Program – 10/10 2022

### Exotic Common Opals

Opals are typically known for their fiery play-of-color and rather pricey costs, but there is a wide range of what are called “Common Opals” that have striking body colors, luscious bands and bold stripes. And these Opals are great lapidary materials. They're attractive, colorful and hard enough to take a high polish. Plus the cost of rough material is within the “affordable” range of most lapidaries.



Our speaker this month, Helen Serras-Herman, will discuss a large variety of common Opals including Blue and Pink from Peru and Arizona, Ice-cream from Spencer, Idaho, Morado from Mexico, Bertrandite (or Tiffany Stone) from Utah, Candy-stripe and Utah Lace from Utah, dendritic white and yellow from Idaho, and various greens from Serbia, Tanzania, Argentina, Indonesia, and green cat's eye from Brazil.

Helen is a 2003 National Lapidary Hall of Fame inductee and an acclaimed gem sculptor with years of experience in gem sculpture and jewelry art. Her award-winning, contemporary organic compositions with carved gems, often intertwined with natural gemstone beads and pearls, have been collected and exhibited world-wide, and published in over 300 trade magazines, newspaper articles and books.

Helen's work can be seen at [gemartcenter.com](http://gemartcenter.com) and on Facebook at Gem Art Center/Helen Serras-Herman

## Upcoming Club Activities

- October 10 - Executive Meeting 7:00pm  
General Meeting 7:30pm
- October 22 - Fall Parking Lot Sale - 10am  
See full notice on page 3

See local field trips posted by LA-Rocks on [facebook.com/groups/411978609512229](https://www.facebook.com/groups/411978609512229)

More field trips are posted by SoCal Rocks on [facebook.com/search/top?q=socal rockhounds](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=socal%20rockhounds)

## Club Meetings on Zoom

CCRMC meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Guests are always welcome to join us. Our usual schedule includes:

- 7:00 PM – Executive Meeting
- 7:30 PM – General Meeting
- 8:00 PM – Monthly Program

Club meetings are being held online. Please join us in our Zoom Room to enjoy our monthly program and speaker.

Join the meeting virtually at [CCRMC Zoom](#).  
Meeting ID: 310 836 4611  
Password: rocks

## Club Needs Your Help

We're looking for a couple members to help out with two of the tasks needed to run the club.

First, we need someone who knows Word to help in putting the newsletter out each month.

And we need someone to send out several email blasts each month to the club membership.

Please [contact us](#) to chat about the tasks.

## A Message from



*The  
Pres*

Some aging underground pipes ruptured a couple weeks ago near the shop, and we had to shut down for repairs. Darrell and Steve are working to get it completed before the end of the month.

With fall just around the corner, we've started the groundwork for elections of new officers for next year. I've asked Joanie Rippner to start our nominating committee and contact club members to put together a slate of prospective officers for next year. Balloting will be held at our November meeting.

What talents can you offer to help the club? If you have an interest in helping on any of our standing committees next year, please let me know.

Happy hammering,  
- Brad

## Sunshine

If you or a member you know of isn't feeling well and could use some warm wishes. [Click here](#) to let us know.



## September Program Report 9/12/22

Scott Braley made a two-part presentation. The first on collecting at the Red Cloud Mines of Lincoln County, New Mexico. The second part was about the technology he uses to create magnified images of mineral specimens.

The Red Cloud mines are located in a national forest in the Gallinas Mountains about 190 miles southeast of Albuquerque. Production at about 40 small mines and prospects started in the late 1800's and ceased in 1955. Materials were copper, silver, lead, iron, fluorite and rare earths.

The fluorite mine is very small and the tunnel has been closed down. The copper mine's horizontal tunnels have been sealed and buried, while vertical fences are still open, albeit unstable. The area is public land and collecting is allowed. Several mineral specimens can be found in the area. Scott showed multiple photographs of his favorite spots to collect as well as of the specimens he had collected there using magnification.

Magnifying specimens for photographing presents a problem: the greater the magnification, the lesser the depth of field, causing parts of the image to get out of focus. To get a magnified image of a specimen entirely in focus, Scott has equipped his camera with a motor that moves it around the specimen, taking several photographs with each focusing on a part of the specimen.

A software then is used to identify the parts of the images that are in focus, and combine all images to obtain a single composite image of the specimen entirely in focus. About 150 to 200 images are made to obtain a composite image.

Submitted by  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,  
Recording Secretary

## Shop Yard Sale Planned - October 22

The club will be having one of its popular Shop Yard Sales this month, and the event is open to the public.

Gems – Minerals – Rough – Slabs  
Crystals - Jewelry Supplies  
Beads – Findings – Tools – Books  
Lapidary & Jewelry Equipment– & More



Join us on Saturday, October 22, 2022  
The sale will be 10AM ~3PM Location is  
next to the CCRMC Shop at 10866 Culver  
Blvd. in Culver City.

Free parking is available along Culver Blvd.  
or on Elenda St. Please no parking in the alley  
near the shop.

(Rain date – October 29th)

## Heritage Auctions – Fine Minerals

For those who like fine display specimens, see  
the auction advertised in the LA Times at:

[HA.com/8112](https://www.ha.com/8112) Ending October 4th

## Minutes of Our Executive Committee Meeting – 9/12/22

Those present: Darren Cokin, Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Veronique Gautherot, Jon Gowling, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Brad Smith, Jette Sorensen, Ana M Strambi Guimaraes, Christine Thompson, Karen Wallen.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM PT by President Brad Smith.

The August Executive Meeting minutes were approved as published in the September edition of The Nugget.

-Brad inquired as to whether there was appetite to have a holiday party. If there was desire to meet in person, the Club should verify whether the usual venue was available.

-Ken Rogers inquired as to whether the Club could host hybrid meetings beginning January. Darren Colkin indicated hybrid meetings were doable and he was willing to operate them. Jette Sorensen reminded that the Club had already decided on holding hybrid meetings and considered purchasing equipment so that Darren would not have to use his own. Darren reminded to check what equipment the Veterans Center had available. Brad said to finalize the details before the New Year.

-Brad indicated he would invite the general membership to volunteer for the new slate of officers. Christine Thompson suggested making a description of the roles available and going over them at the general meeting.

-Ken informed the yard sale was scheduled for October 22nd or the following weekend depending on weather.

-Ken informed the Bead Society would be hosting their Bazaar on September 24th. Club members wearing the Club badge had free admission.

-Ken announced that the October program would be a lecture by Helen Serras-Herman on exotic common opals.

-Darren informed that the pedestal of the standing sanders at the shop had rusted.

-Veronique Gautherot asked why the shop was not open as often as before. Brad explained that it was because there were not enough instructors available to open it more often. The Shop Committee was searching for people skilled in teaching and dealing with members appropriately.

-Darrell Robb informed it was time to renew the insurance policy and that the current liability included officers and the shop. Payment would be due by mid-October. He recommended officers to review the insurance coverage with a fine comb to determine if changes were necessary.

-Jette suggested inquiring members what areas in which they were interested in helping, as most membership forms obtained this year did not note preferences.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM PT.

Submitted by  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,  
Recording Secretary

# Happy Birthday!

Kim Strange	10/3
Robby Shearon	10/10
Emilie Golding	10/18
Virginia Hyatt	10/19
Holly Westhoff	10/20
Nickie Jessup	10/25
Steven Dover	10/27

## Minutes of Our General Meeting – 9/12/22

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM PT by President Brad Smith.

-Brad informed that the Club needed to identify the new slate of officers for 2023 and asked members to volunteer for the positions. Those interested should contact him for information on the various offices.

-Brad asked members to let him know whether they would be willing to attend an in-person holiday party in December. Karen Wallen offered to look for locations where guests would not be completely indoors.

-Brad informed the shop was open twice a week and that it could not open more often due to lack of instructors to open the building, maintain equipment and monitor usage. The Shop Committee was in search of people with skills in teaching and dealing with members appropriately.

-Ken Rogers informed the yard sale was scheduled for October 22nd or the following weekend depending on weather. He clarified that the sale was open to members only.

-Ken informed that the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers gem show would take place on October 15th and that the Bead Society would be hosting their Bazaar on September 24th. Club members wearing the Club badge had free admission to the Bazaar.

-Ken announced that the October program would be a lecture by Helen Serras-Herman on exotic common opals.

-Brad asked members to volunteer to help running the Club.

-Darrell Robb informed the Club's financials were in good shape for the coming year and that the results of the silent auction had been satisfactory.

-Jette Sorensen indicated she would be transferring the responsibilities for running the Club's website to another member.

-Christine Thompson reiterated her offer to help with producing The Nugget and Brad said he would show her how he did it.

The September Program followed, after which the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM PT.

Submitted by  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,  
Recording Secretary

## Brad's Bench Tips

[Click to Read More Tips](#)

### CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels (also called Separating Discs) are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.



My preference is the one-inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disc, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

## From The Lap Shop

Our rock shop had to be closed recently because of a break in the underground pipes feeding the building.

Steve Dover and Darrell Robb have found a plumbing company to determine what's wrong and get an estimate of repair cost from a local contractor.

Tony Bravo handles maintenance issues for the Scout House and has helped with a lot of repairs over the years on the roof, the steps, and the bathroom. We engaged him to find the leak and repair the water system.

He started by digging just outside the shop on the alley side where the old meter had been located. That was his best guess on where the leak would be found.

The pipe had in fact broken at the junction of the new copper feed pipe installed by the water company a few years ago and the old steel pipe that feeds both our shop and the Scout House.

The steel pipe looked pretty shot, so we have decided to re-pipe the entire shop with new copper and add a new utility faucet for use by the Scouts. This has the added advantage of restoring the full flow of water in the wash sink at the back of the shop.

Work already started the week of September 26th and is expected to be done before the end of the month.



to our newest members:

Greg Cohen  
Lee Cohran  
Luam Fessehazion

## Upcoming Rock Club Shows & Local Rock Sales



[Click to See All California Federation Shows](#)

October 9, 2022 – Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Club  
9 AM – 4 PM

[info@fgms.org](mailto:info@fgms.org) (760) 728-1130

<http://www.fgms.org/>

October 15, 2022 – Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
10 AM – 5 PM

<http://www.rockchippers.org>

More CFMS Club Shows are posted on the CFMS website at [cfmsinc.org/shows-2/](http://cfmsinc.org/shows-2/)

Other local shows and sales are posted on Facebook at two places:

LA-Rocks Group at  
[facebook.com/groups/411978609512229](https://facebook.com/groups/411978609512229)

SoCal Rocks Group at  
[facebook.com/search/top?q=socal rockhounds](https://facebook.com/search/top?q=socal%20rockhounds)

## The Nugget - Submissions

Submission deadline is on the 15th of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Photographs without credits are shot by a CCRMC member.

Email submissions to the Editor: [nugget@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:nugget@culvercityrocks.org)

## The Nugget - Advertisements

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Size is about 2" high x 3.5" wide. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ads, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month.

Email submissions to the Editor: [nugget@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:nugget@culvercityrocks.org)

## Club General Meetings

Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex  
Multipurpose Room  
4117 Overland Avenue  
Culver City, CA 90230

## Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
PO Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231  
310-836-4611

### Copyright Notice

© The Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, 2022. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from the editor of the Nugget is strictly prohibited. Excerpts may be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to the author and the CCRMC with appropriate and specific direction to the original content

## 2022 Elected Officers

President  
Brad Smith

Vice President  
Vacant

Treasurer  
Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

Corresponding Secretary  
Véronique Gautherot

Parliamentarian  
Jon P. Gowling

## 2022 Committee Chairs

Education – Alexa Hunter & Karen Wallen

Federation Director – Lorna Herf

Field Trips – VACANT

Historian – Virginia Hollis

Librarian – VACANT

Membership Co-Chairs – Stephanie

Dangott & Jette Sorensen

Minerals – VACANT

Photography – Pam Leitner

Programs – Ken Rogers

Publications – VACANT

Publicity – Janice Metz &  
Christine Thompson

Shop Committee – President,  
Vice President & Shop Instructors

Show – Adrienne Louie

Social – VACANT

Sunshine – VACANT

Trading Post – Gary Mitchell

Webmaster – Bart Gampe

Workshops – Janice Metz

Zoom Host – Darren Cokin

## Board of Directors

2022

Virginia Hollis  
Janet Louie

2023

Adrienne Louie  
Jette Sorensen

2024

Gary Mitchell  
Karen Wallen