



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.



Our Program This Month – 11/14 2022

Our November program will be presented by Stephen Blyskal, a Rockhound and Retired Geologist, who will describe collecting in the wonderful agate areas of the famed Kokernot of 6 Ranch in Texas.

The ranch was founded many years ago and at one time was over 500,000 acres. It currently covers almost 110,000 acres across two counties. It has always been a beef cattle ranch, and now features wild sheep hunting as well as rock hunting.

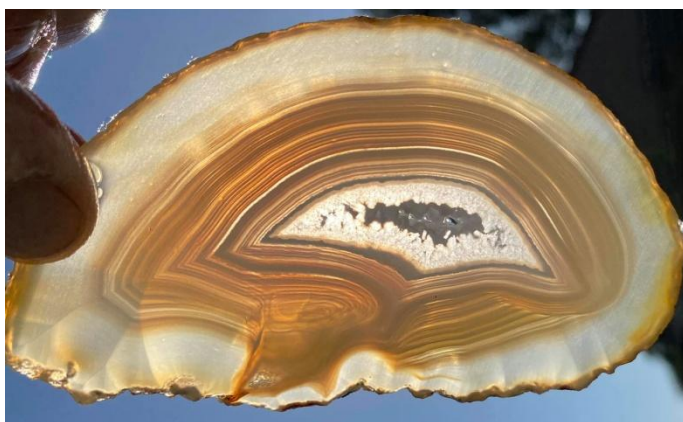
Prior to 2020 the ranch had never been open for rock hunting. Currently there are guided trips there almost every weekend in the fall and spring that are organized by Take a

Hike Texas. They have documented over 125 separate locations where agates can be found with some locations covering areas up to 3-4 miles.



The talk will discuss the geology of the region, current topography and surface geology and will touch on agate formation. The speaker has visited the ranch 4 times in two years and collected over a 1000 lbs of agate. In addition he has researched the geology and discussed agate genesis with the main trip leader, a retired petroleum geologist.

Steve has been collecting minerals since 1964, and agates since 2009. He is a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, where he helps run the Annual Show, chairs the Mineral Study Section, and manages the School Collections mineral/rock kit distribution to teachers. He specializes in collecting prehnite from worldwide locations, Mexican minerals, New Jersey minerals, Calcite and other minerals from the Midwest, Fluorite, Texas minerals, Stilbite, Heulandite and Apophyllite.



Upcoming Activities

November 14 - Executive Meeting
General Meeting

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

More field trips are posted on SoCal Rocks at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691>

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 Online](#).
Meeting ID: 310 836 4611
Password: rocks

Club Needs Your Help

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

First, we need someone to send out several email blasts each month to the club membership using an app similar to MailChimp. [Get in touch](#) for details.

If you are interested in going on some field trips, please [contact Brad](#) to chat about locations and arrangements.

A Message from



*The
Prez*

- Shop Yard Sale -

What a wonderful Shop Yard Sale we had on October 22nd. Ken Rogers did his magic again to put together a fun time for all. It was a good chance to chat with club members and meet a few new faces as well. I really appreciate the members who put in the effort to bring their minerals, specimens, and tools to sell or trade.

- Club Officers for 2023 -

One of the most important items of business for this month is the election of officers for next year. See page 6 for the report from our Nominating Committee Chair, Joanie Rippner. We'll have a chance to discuss this at our business meeting and ballot on the choices

- Holliday Party & Dinner -

Traditionally, the club celebrates the holidays with a party and pot luck dinner in place of its usual business meeting and speaker presentation. This year we are having quite a bit of difficulty finding a location that provides a venue deemed safe enough by many members in the face of a growing wave of flu and virus.

We could use your best ideas on how we can organize an event that would be agreeable to the majority of our members. Please let me know your thoughts.

- Happy Thanksgiving –

Wishing everyone a warm and wonderful celebration with family and friends.

- Brad

Program Report From Our Last Meeting - 10/10/22

Gemologist and artist Helen Serra-Herman provided us an overview of her work with common opals, in contrast with precious opals.

The molecular structure of opals comprises multiple silica spheres. In precious opals, the spheres are aligned in orderly rows that permit light to enter and refract in such a way so as to produce fire and the play-of-color phenomenon. In exotic common opals, the body color (also known as base color) results from impurities rather than the sphere arrangement.

Precious opals include black and white opals, boulder opals and matrix opals that display play of color and fire. Even though exotic common opals do not display play of color, their body color comes in striking blue, pink, yellow, green or white, and can show bands, stripes and scenic patterns. In addition to being attractive and affordable (although some common opals are worth thousands of dollars), they are hard enough to take a polish and be used in jewelry. In addition, these opals are not treated by heat or radiation, although some beads can be color enhanced, and some specimens may have cracks sealed - which must be disclosed at the time of purchase.

Exotic common opals can be found in places as varied as Peru, Argentina, Indonesia, Serbia, just to name a few. Examples of these opals include:

-Blue opals: Examples include blue opals from Southern Arizona, which were discovered in 1969; blue fossil opals from Indonesia; blue Peruvian opals, also known as Andean opals, which can be a very bright blue and have banded patterns; and blue opals from Eastern Oregon, which are a robin egg blue shade, translucent to opaque.

-Pink opals: Examples include pink Peruvian opals, which vary from a pastel blushing pink to a deep

pink, to a rare bubble gum homogenous color, are difficult to mine and are excellent lapidary material; and ice-cream opals from Spencer, Idaho, which display a delicate pink shade.

-Morado opal: This opal comes from Zacatecos, Mexico. Its color varies from purplish to pastel lavender, mixed with swirls of white opal. It is believed that the purple color comes from fluorite.

-Tiffany stone: Also known as Bertrandite, it is found in Utah.

-Bacon and lace opals: Also known as candy-stripe or simply candy opals, can be found in Beaver County, Utah.

-Yellow opals: These include cat's eye opals from Brazil, which are yellowish-green or yellowish-brown opals that display the optical phenomenon of chatoyancy; honey yellow opal from Idaho; cinnabar in opal, from Nevada; golden fire opal from Oregon; butterscotch opal from Turkey.

-White common opal: Found in Turkey, can be clear, white, yellow or tan. Include dendritic opals, which are white with dark veins.

-Green opals: Examples include apple-green opals from Serbia, also known as Chrysopal; Mexican jelly opal, a green daylight fluorescent electrical opal; mint-color opals from Indonesia and tiger stripe green opal from Australia. Green opals are also found in Argentina, Africa and Madagascar, among other places.

Submitted by
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary

Minutes of Our Executive Committee Meeting - 10/10/22

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

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

-Stephanie Dangott announced that the Rock Chippers Club would have a show on Saturday.

-Brad Smith informed that the water leak near the shop had been fixed, and it was an emergency repair that took three to four days of work. In addition to repairing the leak, new water supply lines with high pressure were connected directly to the backroom basin and the bathroom. The work cost \$4,600. Brad indicated that a lot of water had been wasted in the last two quarters due to the leak; the water bill would be shared with the Boy Scouts.

-Ken Rogers informed the next program would be about a new agate collection area near Houston, TX.

-Jette Sorensen informed the Club had 110 members.

-A discussion followed about ways for the Club to attract new members, including younger people. Several suggestions were made, such as asking younger members to advertise the Club, and using TikTok. Other suggestions included accepting orders to cut stones for non members in exchange for a donation, and resuming workshops.

-Brad informed that Joanie Rippner was developing a slate of offices for 2023. Jette Sorensen reminded that not every Club activity required a committee.

-Jette indicated that certain members would make shop appointments, but would not show up nor inform the instructor of their change in plans.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM PT

Submitted by
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary

Happy Birthday!

Colin Herf	11/14
Emily Hermosillo	11/14
Gary Mitchell	11/14

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.

Minutes of General Meeting 10/10/22

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM PT by President Brad Smith.

-Ken Rogers informed the next program would be about a new agate collection area near Houston, TX.

-Brad Smith announced that the Rock Chippers Club would have a show on Saturday.

-Ken reminded that the Club was having a sale behind the shop on Saturday 10/22 from 10 AM to 3 PM.

-Darrell Robb indicated the Club's finances were sound. He explained an emergency repair to fix a water leak near the shop had been made. In addition, new water supply lines with high pressure were connected directly to the backroom basin and the bathroom. The work cost \$4,600. A motion was made and approved to pay for the cost.

-Brad informed that the Club's library, located at the shop, was a bit disorganized. The book inventory had not been updated, as the records of borrowed books had been lost. He indicated some procedures needed to be reinstated. Jette Sorensen said that the old computer had the vast majority of records; however they could not be accessed as the password had been lost. Darren Cokin offered to try to extract the information into another program. Virginia Hyatt indicated she might be able to help by inquiring knowledgeable friends about the program.

-Brad informed that the California Federation had a list of upcoming shows in California on its website.

-Karen Wallen informed she had been researching locations for the holiday party outdoors due to Covid-19.

The October Program followed, after which guests introduced themselves. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM PT.

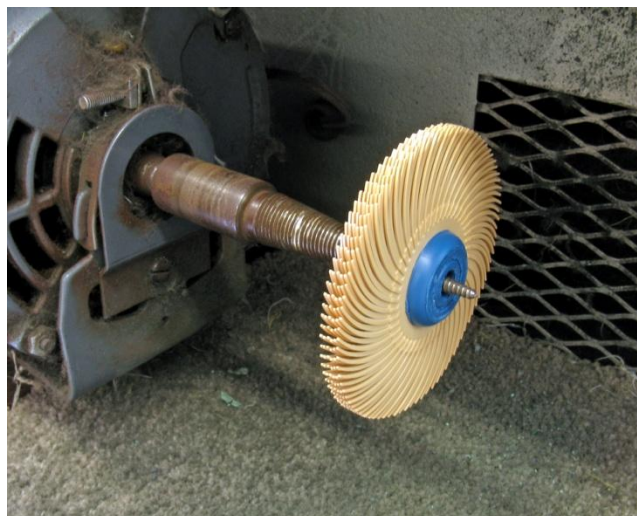
Submitted by Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary

Brad's Bench Tips

[Click Here to See More Tips](#)

Buffing is one of the dirtier operations in making jewelry. If you work inside the home, buffer mess from lint and polish can be a problem. Here's a practical and I think a more economical approach.

I use the 3-M Radial Bristle Disc system, specifically the 2 inch or 3 inch diameter, 6 ply wheels.



The blue (30 micron 400 grit) does a nice job at pre-polishing, the peach (6 micron or 2000 grit) begins the polishing, and the light green (1 micron 8000 grit) finishes pretty well. You'll like the way these discs reduce the amount of dust and lint from buffing, and a side benefit is that you don't have to wash off any waxy grime between grit levels.

Wheels can be mounted on a regular buffer or on an old motor from a yard sale using a tapered spindle adaptor. They can also be used in a Foredom with a 1/4" shaft mandrel that matches the 1/4" hole size in the brushes.

Election of Officers for 2023

The following slate of officers has been proposed for 2023. We will vote on this at the club meeting on November 14th.

President – Alexa Hunter
 Vice President – Steven Dover
 Treasurer - Darrell Robb
 Recording Sec - Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes
 Parliamentarian - Jon Gowling

Education Committee

- Alexa Hunter
- Karen Wallen

Federation Director- Lorna Herf
 Field Trips – Vacant
 Historian - Virginia Hollis
 Librarian - Vacant

Membership Committee

- Stephanie Dangott
- Jette Sorensen

Minerals - Vacant
 Photography- Pam Leitner
 Programs- Ken Rogers
 Publicity - Christine Thompson

Publications Committee

- Christine Thompson
- Jette Sorensen
- Brad Smith

Trading Post - Gary Mitchell
 Webmaster - Bart Gampe
 Zoom host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

- Brad Smith
- Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes



to our newest members:

Steve McDonald

Marianne Hunter

Aron Reese

Upcoming Rock Club Shows & Local Rock Sales



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

November, 5-6 2022 – Gold Coast Show - Ventura
 Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
 Ventura County Fair Grounds – 10W Harbor Blvd
<http://GoldCoastGemShow.com>

November 6, 2022 10 AM – 4 PM
 Lake Elsinore, CA Winter Festival Rock Show
 32097 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore 92530
Berylman50@aol.com

More CFMS rock club shows are posted at
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/shows>

More local shows and sales are posted on the
 LA-Rocks Group at
[facebook.com/groups/411978609512229](https://www.facebook.com/groups/411978609512229)

If you're interested in field trips or shows further
 south, see the SoCal Rocks Group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691>

The Nugget - Submissions

Submissions 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

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

Club General Meetings

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

Mailing Address

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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