



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 – 2/13 2023

WINTER SILENT AUCTION

NOT ZOOM BUT IN-PERSON AT

VETERANS MEMORIAL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

We will start with a short membership business meeting. Afterward, we'll have our fun and exciting Member's Silent Auction. Items up for bid may include slabs, rough, specimens, tools, jewelry, jewelry supplies, collecting gear, books and more. Items will be displayed for preview.

When the auction begins, bids can be written on the bidding sheets, or raised from a previous bid. The auction will end with a one-minute warning. Bidding ends after the "all pencils down" notice. The last and highest bid gets that item, at that price.

Food will not be offered during this in-person event, so don't come hungry for anything but great bargains.

Silent Auction Donations

The auction will include donations the Club has received over the past months from members and friends. The more items we have, the more fun the auction will be! We request that each member donate several items, such as specimens, slabs, cabs, tools, jewelry findings, finished jewelry, related books or magazines. All donations are appreciated. Please bring your donations to the Club Shop during Shop hours or to the meeting. If you bring them to the meeting, please plan on arriving around 7:15 pm. If possible, identify specimens. Items brought to the meeting will be auctioned, time permitting, or will be used for our Club summer picnic auction.

Money raised will support Club activities.

A Message from the Prez

Welcome to February one and all!

I have unfortunate news for our community: our storage shed behind our shop was vandalized and the Scout's trailer, usually parked in front of our shed, was stolen. We will be beefing up security for the shed and the shop after this experience, therefore if you have any connections to the world of construction materials or perhaps have skills to help, please contact the shop.

Upcoming Activities

February 13 – Executive Meeting 7:00 pm
 General Meeting 7:30 pm
 Silent Auction 8:00-9:30 pm

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 be the editor of the Nugget. We also 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 Pres continued.

We had our first 2023 Fiesta of Gems Show Committee meeting and have begun planning how to best prepare for an outstanding show July 8th and 9th at the Vet's. The 2023 pads are done - a great way to advertise our show, so please pick up from the shop and start getting the word out. We will need all hands on deck to make the show a success. This time of year is well known for the Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson, Arizona, purportedly the biggest show in the world, and the PowWow and prequel show in Quartzsite. Several members have already been to Quartzsite and started distributing our pads. I am privileged to be in Tucson as I write this, where the show seems more robust than ever. I'm not only shopping this year, but have a booth at the Casino del Sol, as does fellow member Veronique Gautherot. If you're in town, please stop by and say hello.

Join us Monday, February 13th, 7:30-9:30 for our in-person Winter Silent Auction at the Veteran's Memorial in the Multi-purpose room, 4117 Overland Ave. We need every member to donate something: a raw or polished mineral specimen, a finished jewelry piece, an old tool. Please bring your donations to the shop over the next few weekends with a note about a suggested opening bid, or simply bring your donation to the event - just show up 15 minutes before our 7:30 start time. The Silent Auction is open to non-members so be sure to tell friends about it.

In the spring when the rains have eased and the air is warmer we will be having a field trip. One possible location for this first trip of '23 would be near Oceanside, an area famous for their tourmalines.

Hope to see a good number of you Monday, Feb. 13th and celebrate our first in-person event since the summer.

Alexa

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kerstin Chan	Alex Daviss
Daniel Levine	Juan Rangel
Rosie Velázquez	Jennifer Zchan

Program Report from Our Last Meeting - 1/9/23

Dick Weber, geologist, made a presentation on fluorite.

Fluorite is the second most popular mineral among collectors after quartz. It has been used for centuries in carved objects, mainly for ornamental purposes, due to its beauty and easy to carve. Industrial application began in the 1800s.

Fluoride can be easily distinguished from other minerals because of its hardness, near perfect crystals, and near perfect cleavage in four different directions. Pure fluorite crystals are perfectly clear. Colored crystals are a result of radiation and other natural processes. Green, purple, blue, yellow, and black are the most common (black is actually a very dark purple color). The occurrence of spots is also common and results from radiation. In 1852, physicist George Strokes discovered fluorite can produce fluorescence, glowing a blue violet color under long and short wave UV light. Not all crystals have fluorescence.

Fluorite has multiple applications in our society. Making steel is among the most prominent, where fluorite is used to lower the melting point of the iron and to help remove impurities from it. Fluorite is too fragile for jewelry making; it is common for fluorite jewelry to be covered in plastic.

Fluorite is formed by fluorine and calcium (CaF_2). It forms in hydrothermal veins and around hot springs. Limestone or dolomite provide calcium. Igneous fluids interact with them and convert calcite to fluorite. Volume is reduced by twenty percent, creating massive voids that provide room for crystal to grow large. Some species have liquid hydrocarbons in the crystals.

Fluorite can be found in many places around the world:

-Several mines in Mexico produce mostly purple fluorite, but there are very rare pink, strawberry color crystals.

-The Blue John Cavern, in the UK, has been producing ornamental fluorites at least since the 1700s. Mines in the Weardale area produce specimens that exhibit green and blue fluorescence in day light.

-France is not a major fluoride producer but its specimens have a very intense blue. Most are used in industrial applications, as crystals are very pure. Fluorite can also be found in pockets of veins of granite and pegmatite in the Alps.

-Spain in the sixth largest producer of fluorite in the world, which is mined there since the late 1800s. Several mines are abandoned and open to collectors. Most crystals are blue, but yellow, as well as high-priced clear crystals are also found.

-In Namibia, there are pegmatite inclusions with fluorite. Specimens are fluorescent. Fluorite is no longer explored commercially, but can be collected.

-South Africa has an abundance of fluorite. Recently, beautiful green crystals were found, but are not commercialized. Crystals exhibit fluorescence. They are quoted in quartz, which is removed with hydrofluoric acid.

-In Morocco, pale green and yellow fluoride is found in deep underground veins.

-China is the world's top producer, with 64% of production. There are over a thousand mines in the country, mostly open pit with primitive extraction techniques - since less blasting and crushing are used, bigger crystals are preserved. Most of the production is used in chemistry, but in the past ten years, specimens for collecting have been produced. However, caution is needed when buying multicolor specimens from China, as crystals may be artificially glued together.

*Submitted by
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary*

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting - 1/9/23

Those present: Darren Colkin, Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Jon Gowlin, Virginia Hollis, Alexa Hunter, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Brad Smith, Jette Sorensen, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes, Christine Thompson.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Alexa Hunter.

The November meeting minutes were approved as read in the December edition of The Nugget (there was not a meeting in December).

Darrell Robb informed dividends had been deposited in the Club's account in December. He indicated certain large expenses were upcoming and were expected, but that the Club remained in excellent financial health.

Alexa reminded that, with her assuming the role of President, the Education chair was vacant; she would bring it up at the general meeting.

Brad Smith informed that Culver City had increased the required coverage amount of insurance for the show, which would result in a premium increase of \$2,800. He indicated the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies would not increase the coverage their master policy already provided. A discussion followed as to whether it would be worth having the show given such increase. Darrell estimated that net gains would be minimal. Suggestions were made on how to increase revenue, such as raising the price per table, and it was decided that the topic would be discussed at a meeting about the show, to be scheduled shortly.

Jette Sorensen informed that she had discussed the Field Trip chair position with a couple of interested members.

Ken Rogers indicated he needed to step down from the Program chair position, but he would line up programs for February and March.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

*Submitted by
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary*

Minutes of General Meeting 1/9/23

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by President Alexa Hunter.

A guest was introduced.

Christine Thompson reminded Club dues were due and informed the website had information on where to mail the check. Jette Sorensen clarified the deadline to pay was the March meeting. She asked members to

Minutes of General Meeting continued

fill out the application form from the website and mail it along with the payment. Steve Dover indicated the dues could also be paid at the shop and application forms were available there as well.

Darrell Robb communicated those dividends had been deposited in the Club's account in December and the Club remained in good financial health. He informed large expenses were expected in January related to the show.

Alexa explained the Education chair was vacant due to her taking over the President role and asked members to consider stepping up for it. Ken Rogers added that the Club had an Education budget and education supplies available.

Ken informed he was working in securing a program for February.

Brad Smith asked if anyone would be going to Quartzsite, to bring back supplies for the shop and the show.

Alexa asked if we would have a silent auction in February; Brad recommended it to be discussed with Ken.

Christine reminded members that they were welcome to submit articles and advertising for The Nugget.

Christine and Alexa informed that the Library and Field Trip chairs were also vacant, although a couple of members interested in the Field Trip chair had been identified.

Stephanie Dangott reminded the Club also needed a show chair. She said she would volunteer to take care of hospitality, and Joanie Rippner said she would gather volunteers for the various tasks. Darrell mentioned the need for producing post cards and flyers as soon as possible to start advertising the show. A discussion followed on scheduling a meeting to strategize the show.

Ken reminded members that the Club was everyone's and everyone needed to participate, not just the Board and the committee chairs.

The January Program followed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

*Submitted by
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes,
Recording Secretary*

CCRMC REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

We need a representative for the Farragut Elementary School Science Night on Thursday, March 2nd, from 6-8pm.

If you have any ideas, please ask any member(s) you can think of. Please email [Alexa Hunter](#) with names or for more information.

Happy Birthday!

Deborah	Kelfer	2/10
Samantha	Baker	2/13
Peter M.	Baram	2/14
Lynne	Lukert	2/16
Ken	Rogers	2/17
David	Eggers	2/26
Frank	Hollis	2/26
Lillian	Thibodeau	2/28

Upcoming Rock Club Shows & Local Rock Sales



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

February 25-26, 2023 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900
Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589
Hours: 10 AM-5 PM

Gems, geodes, fossils, beads and minerals from around the globe. Discover lapidary and stone crafts from vendors and live demonstrations. Something for everyone! Silent auction, geode cuttings, and games of chance and discovery for kids!

Contact: (415) 254-1506, ddahonvgms@gmail.com
Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

More shows are listed at cfmsinc.org/shows-2/



Our fully equipped Lapidary Shop is open on a limited basis with modified rules and capacities. Wear masks, observe social distancing, and sign a liability waiver for the Club.

Absolutely NO walk-ins are allowed!

Please contact the instructor to determine availability and reserve your spot:

Saturday 12 pm – 4 pm

Lynne Lukert: gemlynne@ca.rr.com

Sunday 12 pm – 4 pm

Jette: ccrnc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org

If you are unable to attend at the last minute or are going to be 30 minutes or more late, call the Shop.

Members must be current with membership dues.

The Shop is for use by adults 18. Junior members 13+ must sign a special release and a parent/guardian must be present to use any equipment.

10866 Culver Boulevard

Culver City, CA 90230

The Shop is located behind the Scout House

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

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
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2023 Elected Officers

President – Alexa Hunter

Vice President – Steven Dover

Treasurer - Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

Parliamentarian - Jon Gowling

2023 Committee Chairs

Education - Vacant

Federation Director- Lorna Herf

Field Trips - Vacant

Historian - Virginia Hollis

Librarian - Vacant

Membership Co-Chairs
Stephanie Dangott & Jette Sorensen

Photography- Pam Leitner

Programs- Ken Rogers

Publications Committee
Jette Sorensen
Brad Smith

Publicity - Vacant

Trading Post - Gary Mitchell

Webmaster - Bart Gampe

Zoom host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2023

Adrienne Louis
Jette Sorensen

2024

Gary Mitchell
Karen Wallen

2025

Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith

The CCRMC is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization.