



ter. If you have any interesting rocks or minerals that you would like to share or would like Gary to identify. Please bring them to the meeting. He will do his best to tell you about your stones. Gary is one of our own. He, like most of us, is a Rockaholic. His addiction started during a road trip through the American Southwest in 1989. He stopped at way too many rock shops, where he learned that you can make beautiful jewelry out of petrified dinosaur bones. He immediately decided that he was going to find out "everything" about the subject of "ROCKHOUDING." Upon his return to Culver City, Gary joined the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club. He has been a member for 35 years now and is still learning about rocks.

EXHIBITORS NEEDED FOR OUR 62nd ANNUAL CULVER CITY FIESTA OF GEMS SHOW!

The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club needs exhibitors to display their creations and or collections at our upcoming show June 28th and 29th at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City.

We provide the display case, liners, lights, locks and security during the show. All you have to do is set up your display Friday evening or Saturday morning and pick it up Sunday after the show closes. If you need help setting up your display, assistance will be available at the show.

Please contact Steve Dover directly at skdover@yahoo.com, 760-764-2422 or sign up at the shop or at a club meeting to reserve a case.

Thanks!

Steve Dover, Display Chairman

WHAT'S THAT ROCK? PRESENTED BY GARY MITCHELL

March 10 at 7:30 PM

Multipurpose Room in the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City 90230

During our March meeting, Gary Mitchell will share his knowledge, discuss, and bring samples of rocks and minerals that rockhounds commonly encoun-

The Culver City Rock & Mineral Club 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 and practice of lapidary and related arts.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear All:

We had an incredibly robust silent auction in February, with many outstanding specimens, and beads, and books, and raised a record-breaking sum. Thank you to all who came and shopped in support of our club, and special thanks to Steve Dover for organizing the large donation inventory.

The Fiesta of Gems is moving forward with the show plans. We are slated for the last weekend in June, the 28th-29th. We need many volunteers to run the show to help with the setup on Friday the 27th and on the two show days. Our Bylaws specify that each member must donate four hours in connection with the show. Email the show volunteer coordinator, Joanie Rippner, at CCRMC-Volunteers@culvercityrocks.org with the day and time you will be available.

We will be celebrating the fabulous fluorescent Fluorite this year. We can always use more help in the planning stage, so email Joanie Rippner at CCRMC-Volunteers@culvercityrocks.org if you're interested in getting involved. We also need the members to donate a new lapidary or jewelry item for our hourly drawing during the show.

The show's gorgeous postcards will be ready in the next few weeks. Please swing by the shop to pick up a stack to distribute. See you on March 10th!

— Alexa Hunter, President



Gems Workshop Instructor. Each Instructor must be prepared to teach a one to three-hour workshop on your specific skill during the Fiesta of Gems Show. Workshops at FOG is open to both members and the general public. Please contact Regina Lozano rlozano@pacbell.net if interested.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you have not renewed your membership yet, now is the time.

You will be in arrears if we have not received your renewal form and payment by the end of the March 10 membership meeting. If you haven't renewed your membership, you cannot use the lapidary shop and will no longer receive the Nugget or other communications from the Club. You will also miss meetings like the Picnic, Silent Auction, and the Holiday Party.

You can renew by going to the renewal form on our website. The form leads you to pay via Zelle. You can also renew by downloading the Membership Application and mail it with your check to the address on the form.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

**10866 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 836-4611**

The shop is located behind the Scout House

The shop is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 pm. To see if there is room, go to the [Lapidary Shop tab](#) on the [Club's website](#) and send an email, do not just show up.

Saturdays: [Steve Dover](#)

Sundays: [Jette Sorensen](#)

If you have not made a reservation, you can call the shop during open hours to see if there is room, 310-836-4611. Do not wear open-toed shoes. Wear old clothes. Bring eye and ear protection.

CALLING ALL WORKSHOP LEADERS FOR FOG

Share your jewelry-making or lapidary skills at the Fiesta of Gems Show. Do you have a special skill that you would like to share with others? Are you an expert in closeup photography, wire-wrapping, enameling, chainmail, and lapidary, or have a skill not listed above, then become a 2025 Fiesta of

SILENT AUCTION RESULTS

February's silent auction brought in over \$1,000. In addition to rough, slabs, and cabs, we included about half of a large donation of beads, which turned out to be a great success.

The other half will be included in an Alley Market in April and at the picnic in July.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

JANUARY WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, 03/16/2025, 9 am to 12 noon at the Club's Lapidary Shop.

Get to know the equipment at the club's lapidary workshop. Use a trim saw to cut the outline for a cabochon. Shape the stone on the grinding wheels and use the Expando wheels to polish it. Use the arbor with a leather wheel to get a high polish. Go home with a cabochon you can use for a pendant. The workshop is limited to 4 members. The workshop fee is \$20.00, payable in advance to jetsorensen@gmail.com via Zelle. If the fee has not been paid by 1/15/25, the spot may be given to someone from the waiting list, if any.

Email Jette to reserve a spot: jetsorensen@gmail.com

MAKE A SKINNY RING

Sunday, March 30, 9 AM – 12 PM.
At the Lapidary Shop

Learn to fuse skinny rings using Argentium Silver, a type of Sterling. Argentium has a higher fine silver content than regular sterling, making fusing easier than with regular sterling. Argentium also resists tarnishing when compared to regular sterling. You will learn to control the flame of a Butane torch, making a seamless joint. Time permitting, we will make some embellishments.

The workshop fee is \$62 including silver. Payable in

advance and is limited to four students.

Email Jette Sorensen, JetSorensen@gmail.com, for reservations

THE MINUTES

EXECUTIVE MEETING

February 12, 2025 via Zoom

In attendance – Alexa Hunter, Jette Sorensen, Regina Lozano, Ellen Moe, Janice Metz, Stephanie Dangott, Darrell Robb.

Alexa arrived and began the meeting at 6:45 pm. Membership report emailed from Regina and also read to attendees:

2025 Members in good standing: 63

Members from 2024 who have not yet renewed: 121

Members from 2024 who have submitted google form but not yet paid: 8

All of the 192 of the above are in the Shop List

After the March meeting, any members who have not paid the dues will be removed from the shop list and nugget distribution.

Note:

11 Board of Directors have renewed

3 Board of Directors have not

22 new 2025 members (includes 6 who renewed [joined] in late 2024)

Jette wanted the board to know that she didn't know what was going on with the FOG postcards and neither did Darrel (who joined later). Alexa said that beautiful pictures had been taken by club member Gary Mitchell, but not sure if they had been sent to member Barbara [Fier] to place order with the printer. Alexa will follow up.

Ellen stated that she was glad that members Ben and Jason were now organizing field trips since she could not keep the post. She appreciated the donation of geodes for FOG kids area,

Alexa asked if someone can update the website

about fluorite since it is the featured stone for this year's FOG. Jette said she will contact Joel, who puts the Nugget together.

Stephanie had to leave early.

Regina asked Alexa about doing another alley sale. Said Stephanie wanted to do one in April and Regina will help her. Alexa said it's a good idea. Jette said we should try to sell some of the donated beads there. Regina said she would be concerned as a vendor that this is competing with what vendors have. Jette and Alexa did not feel that would be a problem.

Jette recently held a workshop on making paperclip links with sterling silver wire. She said one of the students was a quick learner and wanted to teach a class on this technique in the future.

Janice will do a workshop soon, but has some health issues to resolve first.

Regina will do a gem tree class at some point.

Darrell came on the call and advised that postcard pictures transmitted from Gary to Barbara. There had been some questions that Barbara had and it took a bit to get an answer from Gary. Barbara out of town for a few days, so postcard order should be going to printer soon.

Darrell also said he and Karen Wallen would be sending invitations to vendors for upcoming FOG soon.

Alexa has some paperwork from Ken Rogers that she will bring to the shop this weekend.

Meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday February 10th, 2025

Called to order by President Alexis at 7:42 PM.
Several new members in attendance.

Lapidary Shop – Steve said the shop is in good shape. Not a lot of people lately so should be able to get in when you request. The shop is open on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4pm.

Treasurer – Darrell stated our club is solvent. We are ready for Fiesta of Gems on June 28th and 29th,

with set up on June 27th.

Membership – Regina stated that people need to pay their yearly dues by the end of the March meeting or else will not be able to access the shop. Can pay dues and auction through Zelle. Raffle tickets for FOG are ready and need to be sold by members.

We have the tear-off pads for the gem show printed up. Everyone is welcome to take some pads and pass them out wherever they want.

Steve mentioned that the show has 20 display cases for members. The cases are very nice, include liners and lights.

Alexa announced that a volunteer is needed for an event at Farragut Elementary School on February 27th from 6 to 8 pm. We have the gems and minerals to provide for the educational display.

Jette told us that the silent auction beads were a donation from the family of a local beader. The other items were donated by club members.

Joyce announced that she brought glass pebbles for members to take for free to practice drilling designs.

Jette announced that for the March meeting, very knowledgeable club member Gary Mitchell will help members identify their specimens.

Club member and alternate shop instructor Darren explained the lapidary shop to new members.

Jette is the instructor for a Lapidary 101 class on February 16th, and the cost is \$20. She is also the instructor for a class on Cold Connections for jewelry on February 23rd, with a cost of \$60 which includes supplies.

Field trip co-chair Ben told the club about the recent field trip to the Hauser Geode Beds. There were 17 members in attendance. They ran into a nice man nicknamed "Geode Jerry" who gave them some geodes for the kids area of the gem show. He also told them the best places to dig. It was a successful outing.

They are going to coordinate with the Searchers club for another field trip.

Alexa reminded everyone that there are always lots of opportunities to volunteer with the club. As a member, we are each supposed to contribute 4 hours each year.

Submitted by
Stephanie Dangott

HAUSER GEODE BEDS



Our recent field trip to the Hauser Geode Beds near Blythe, CA, was an exciting and rewarding adventure for all who attended. Under clear desert skies, club members spread out across the rugged terrain, chisels and hammers in hand, eager to uncover nature's hidden treasures.

We were fortunate to meet a local expert, Jerry, who generously shared his knowledge, guiding us to some of the best spots and offering valuable advice on where and how to search for geodes. His insights made a huge difference, helping many of us find incredible specimens. Indeed, the Hauser Beds did not disappoint—many of us cracked open geodes revealing stunning interiors lined with quartz and agate.

After a full day of collecting, we returned to camp in the desert, where we enjoyed a peaceful night under a breathtaking canopy of stars. The quiet beauty of the landscape, combined with the warmth of a campfire and good company, made for an unforget-

table experience. Beyond the thrill of discovery, the trip was a great opportunity to learn from an expert, swap stories, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts.

Whether it was a first-time experience or a return visit for seasoned collectors, everyone left with a new appreciation for the wonders beneath our feet. It was a fantastic outing, and we can't wait for our next rockhounding adventure!

— Ben Granger



BENCH TIPS



EMERY BOARDS

I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for prepolishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200. While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.

— Brad Smith, [Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making](#)

UPCOMING GEM SHOWS

March 8-9, 2025 – Turlock, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society

Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

Rock & Gem Show, Educational Family Event.
Minerals, Beads, Fossils, Tools, Fluorescent Room,
Dinosaur walk-about, Gem Identification, Kids
Activities, Gold Panning, Demos, Exhibits, Great

Food, Free Parking

Contact: (209) 499-0533, skitrish1112@hotmail.com

Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 7-9, 2024 – Stoddard Wells, CA Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

1-15 toward Barstow. EXIT #157, stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate
Hours: Daily 9 M – 5 PM

49th Annual Show; Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate; Friday-Sunday 95p; Free to vendors and public; Vendors offering slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, rough material, handcrafted and faceted jewelry. Family field trip on Saturday 9a-1p at local collecting site.

Contact: Dave Duncan (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org

Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 15-16, 2025 – San Jose, CA Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd., San Jose, CA 95111

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM Daily

Children under 12 free with adult. Active Duty/Retired Military/Military Dependents/First Responders Free with valid ID Card. Scouts in Uniform Admitted Free. Adults \$8 – save \$2 when you buy online! <http://www.scvgms.org>

Bring any of our advertising paper or electronic for \$1 off admission.

FREE PARKING

Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>, facebook.com/santaclaravalleygem&mineralsociety/

March 22-23, 2025 – Angels Camp, CA Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society

Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun Club Rd., Angels Camp, CA 95222

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

The Calaveras Gem and Mineral and Jewelry Show

at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds Frogtown. Admission is \$7 for adults; kids 12 and under are free, if accompanied by a paying adult. There will be numerous exhibits featuring jewelry, carving, faceted gemstones, and polished rocks. There will be demonstrators in disciplines such as fastening gemstones, wire wrapping, chair fabrication, and rock carving. Dealers will be selling jewelry making supplies and tools, beads, minerals, handcrafted jewelry, meteorites, fossils, ETC. Snack bar and food trucks on site. Free parking and shuttle service from fairgrounds gate up to the show building.

Contact: (209) 736-4892, annachristiansen7132@comcast.net

Website: <https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/show.html>

**March 22-23, 2025 – Torrance, CA
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society**

Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society presents our Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Natures Treasures. Free admission and plenty of free parking.. We will have educational demonstrations, slabs, raffle, rough rock, silent auction, polished stones, fluorescent minerals, children’s activities, crystals, etc., etc., etc.

Vendors, please contact: edwhitefire@gmail.com, (310) 283-3448

Website: <http://southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com>

**March 21-23, 2025 – Fresno, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society**

Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis CA 93612

Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Central Valley Gem and Mineral Show. The 5th Annual Central Valley Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the Fresno Gem & Mineral Society, presents a great show for viewing, learning about and purchasing minerals, fossils, gems, beautiful handmade jewelry and much more! Food Vendors

on site. \$5 Admission for ages 13 years and up. Free Parking.

Contact: (708) 821-7575

Website: <https://www.fgms.rocks>

CCRMC CLASSIFIEDS

Take a more active role in the Club!. We’re currently looking for people to lead the following:

- Photography
 - take pictures at Club functions, including meetings, shows, holiday parties, and special Club events, and deliver them to the newsletter editor and publicity.
- Program Reports
 - take notes during presentations and write program reports for the Nugget.
- Social
 - arrange meeting refreshments, refreshments for parties, etc.

If you feel you want to fill any of the above committees, we encourage you to step up and make a difference. Contact [Alexa Hunter](#).

MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cansu Calcal	2-Mar
Dominic Mandy	2-Mar
Tracy Kristine Reith	6-Mar
Chris Golden	9-Mar
Grace Sato	9-Mar
Lois Papner	11-Mar
Orea Edison	17-Mar
Barbara Wynn	17-Mar
Liam Brabender	20-Mar
Karen Wallen	21-Mar
Nancy Brandel	22-Mar
Bruce Mensinger	23-Mar
Kent Goodman	25-Mar
Lucas Engel	28-Mar
Pam Leitner	28-Mar

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

Cris Amaya	Val Hernandez
Matthew Biggs	Alex Sepe
Miranda Biggs	Christie Stegmaier
Kira Fish	Stacy Stegmaier
Veronica Hassett	Javier Repetto de los Dolores
Laina Hernandez	Romaine Fekade Selassie

2025 Elected Officers

President - Alexa Hunter
Vice President - Steven Dover
Treasurer - Darrell Robb
Recording Secretary - Stephanie Dangott
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Wallen
Parliamentarian - Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

2025 Committee Chairs

Education - Marrilee Marks
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field Trips - Harvey Schwartz & Ben Granger
Librarian - Joannie Rippner
Membership Co-Chairs - Regina Lozano
Minerals - Joel Kuennen
Photography - VACANT
Programs - Jette Sorensen
Publications Committee - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Social - VACANT
Sunshine - Karen Wallen
Trading Post - VACANT
Webmaster - Bart Gampe
Workshops - Jette Sorensen
Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

The Nugget – Submissions

The 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 the Nugget 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

Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
PO Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231
info@culvercityrocks.org
310-836-4611

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 www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691

Zoom Address

<https://zoom.us/j/3108364611?pwd=WnRTclZTS-3RJMEdWdlV2c01mQWxqdz09>

Meeting ID: 310 836 4611

Password: rocks

Board of Directors

2025
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith

2026 + 2027
TBD

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