



FIESTA OF GEMS WORK PARTY

Join us on May 12 for our yearly "Work Party," where we prepare for our Fiesta of Gems show at the end of June. The meeting is in the Multipurpose Room in the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex at 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.

There will be delicious snacks and a Trading Post. We will be stuffing Grab Bags, but for the first time,

there will be no preparing postcards since we have gone digital with invitations to guests from prior Fiesta of Gems shows. That will give you more time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and chat with some of the ones who have been on one or more of our recent field trips. Perhaps you'll hear about more planned trips.

The Work Party is always one of the cherished meetings we offer our membership.

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 are fast approaching our Fiesta of Gems and will need every member to help make the show a success. Our Work Party on May 12th will be an excellent opportunity to help our club prepare by signing up for a particular volunteer post, pay for your raffle tickets, and even signing up for one of the wonderful workshops we will be offering this year.



The club is experiencing a strong gust of fresh energy with field trips happening, and an upcoming sidewalk sale, and I'm very excited the shop will now be open on Wednesday nights. Congratulations to our newest shop steward, Javier!

Hope to see you all at the meeting and don't forget to pick up and pass out our beautiful postcards.

See you all soon,

— Alexa Hunter, President

ALLEY SALE MAY 10th

Don't forget the Alley Sale behind our Lapidary Workshop on May 10th. See some familiar faces and get stuff members will sell – including stones in all forms, from rough to finished bling, and all sorts of lapidary and jewelry-related destash. The Club will have a table that includes tools and a bunch of beads.

The sale runs from 10 AM to 3 PM. Park in the street. Absolutely no cars are allowed in the alley.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP NEWS

We have added Wednesday Night Shop to the Lapidary Workshop schedule. Wednesday is from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The Assistant Instructor is Javier Repetto. You can reserve a spot by emailing ccrmc-wednesdayshop@culvercityrocks.org

We are hoping to expand the schedule even more. Thanks to a generous donation, we will be installing a new jeweler's Bench. It will take the place of the tall white bench. The donation also included a number of jeweler's tools, mandrels, a flex shaft, a torch, and quite a few books.

Thanks to Steve Dover for making sure all the shop equipment is running without problems.

NEW 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 Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 PM, 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.

Wednesdays: [Javier Repetto](#)

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, a particulate mask is also recommended for certain kinds of work.

MAY WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, May 18, 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



and fusing a frame, measure and cut prongs you solder onto the frame. Create a bail and solder it onto the frame. Secure the cabochon with the prongs and go home with a new pendant. The silver used is Argentium, a kind of sterling silver but with a higher fine silver content, making it very slow to tarnish when compared to sterling. The workshop is limited to 4 members. The workshop fee is \$65.00, including silver and a cabochon, payable in advance to jetsorensen@gmail.com via Zelle.

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



TREE OF LIFE WORKSHOP

Reserve a spot in a Tree of Life workshop May 31, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Boy Scout Meeting House. This hands-on workshop will guide you in creating a beautiful Tree of Life using your favorite fist-sized rock as a base and wire wrapped rock chips. You will create either an uplifted tree or a weeping willow. Workshop fee is \$50, with an additional \$10 for a material kit that you build by selecting wire and rock chips to complement your rock base. You will need to bring your own tools (a supply list will be provided). The workshop is limited to five participants, so it is essential to reserve your spot in advance. To confirm your place, the fee must be paid by May 24, 2025 via Zelle. If the fee is not received by the deadline, your spot may be given to someone on the waiting list. To reserve a spot, receive the class supply list, and obtain Zelle payment instructions, email Regina at CLUBSRL@gmail.com

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.

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



PRONG SETTING CABOCHONS

Sunday, May 25, 9 am to 12 noon at the club's Lapidary Shop.

Learn to set a cabochon with prongs by making



Interested in a particular mineral collecting site? Already have outdoor plans and would like to open them to the club? Know of another Club's excursions? Let us know! Email fieldtrips@culver-cityrocks.org with as many of the following details as possible:

- Dates
- Location
- What rocks and minerals can be collected
- Travel time to destination
- Bonus: What to expect (Campground facilities? Primitive camping? Off road? Crazy weather? No shops for miles?)

Anything submitted with ample time will be published in the following Nugget issue; otherwise, emails may go out to club members with shorter notice. Happy collecting!



FIESTA OF GEMS UPDATE

We are in the midst of getting ready for our pride and joy activity, Fiesta of Gems, from June 27 through June 29.

The most important thing for running a successful event is an “**all hands on deck**” attitude in the membership. We need everyone to volunteer to give a hand.

We need strong folks to help load display cases and other heavy/bulky things at the Lapidary Shop on the setup day, **Friday, June 27, starting at 9 AM**. These volunteers should then help unload and set up at the Veterans Memorial after 10 AM. We also need volunteers during the day to set up tables and chairs and put on tablecloths. Plants will arrive Friday from our main grower, Grace Sato. If you have plants to donate, bring them in Friday afternoon. We need volunteers to help set up the break room and deliver cookie platters to the vendors (more about cookies in the June Nugget.) In addition, we need volunteers for security, making sure that only vendors and CCRMC-approved people get entrance.

On Saturday, June 28, we need volunteers to greet guests outside the lobby, inside the lobby at the welcome table, and at the plant sale, at the Children's area and Grab Bag Sale, on the stage at the Club Table, as security, and as Floates to fill in where needed.

On Sunday, June 29, we need volunteers in all the same areas as Saturday, but also extra volunteers starting at 5 PM to help break down and load the display cases and other heavy stuff for return to the Shop and unloading there. Fold tablecloths, load tables (if we have rented from an outside source), and help to get the vendors packed up and leaving.

You will receive an email from Membership, with signup forms for your (according to the Club's Bylaws) 4 hours of volunteering, and also perhaps receive a phone call from Joanie Rippner, our Volunteer Chair person.



MINERAL REPORT: SOCAL JASPERS

Jasper is a lapidary favorite—tough, richly patterned, and full of color. As a microcrystalline variety of quartz, it's part of the chalcedony family but differs in its opacity and often dramatic inclusions. Jasper forms in a wide range of geological environments and can take on nearly any color or pattern depending on local mineral content, deposition, and volcanic activity.

This stable of the studio forms when silica-rich fluids — often from volcanic ash, hydrothermal fluids, or the chemical weathering of rocks — percolate through cracks, cavities, or porous rocks, and precipitate microcrystalline quartz (chalcedony) over time. Unlike clear quartz which forms at higher temps, chalcedony crystals are microscopic and form under 320 degrees, giving jasper its smooth, soft-looking texture. What makes jasper distinct is the presence of impurities—like iron, manganese, or clay minerals—which give it its rich colors and patterns. Iron oxides (like hematite or goethite) produce reds and yellows, manganese gives black or deep purples, and other elements cause greens, blues, or browns.

Southern California is rich in diverse and col-

lectible jaspers due to lots of volcanic activity, weathering, and currently dry environments. Now, it's important to know that the names below are really marketing terms rather than proper geological terms. But, it'll at least give you a good idea of what you can find when getting out of LA for a short summer road trip:



Mojave Jasper

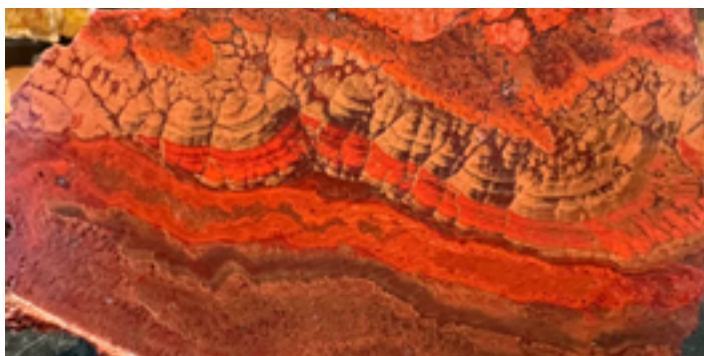
Found in the Mojave Desert, this jasper can range from red and orange to green and purple, often with banding or brecciated patterns. Its hardness

and vivid color make it great for cabochons.



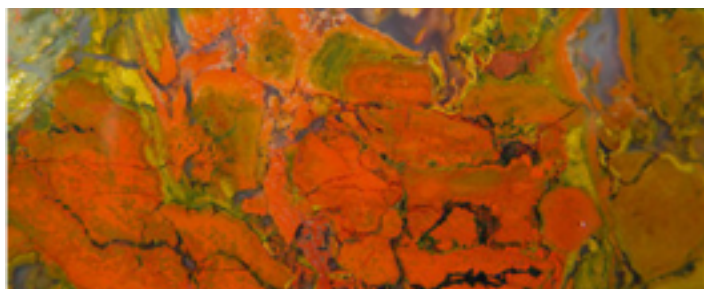
Lavi Jasper

Sourced near Lavi Siding off Route 66, this jasper is known for its bright reds, oranges, and yellows—classic “picture jasper” material with swirls and layers reminiscent of desert landscapes.



Pisgah Jasper

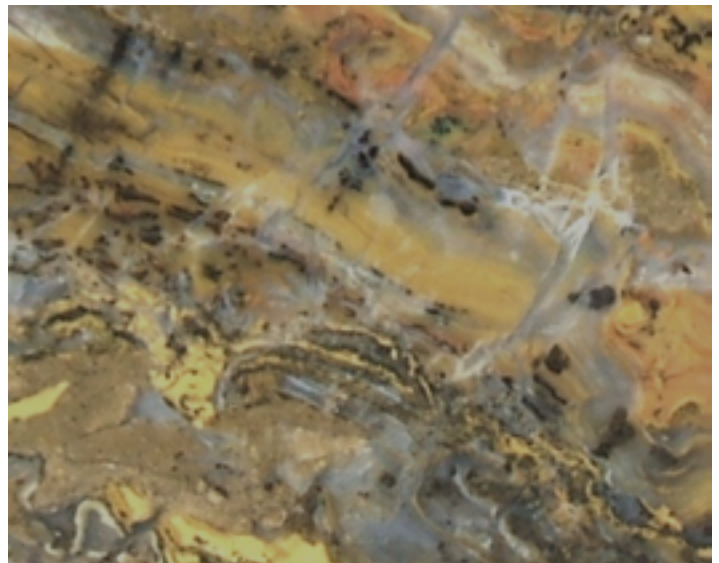
Mined near Pisgah Crater, this material often shows orbicular patterns and wild brecciation, with black, gray, red, and cream tones. A fun challenge for intermediate cutters due to its internal fractures.



Cady Mountains Jasper

From the Cady Mountains near Barstow, this jasper ranges from clean pastel tones to bold polychrome

banding. You’ll find poppy jasper types here, with orb-like red spots in contrasting matrices.



Rainbow Ridge Jasper

Technically just outside SoCal near the border with Nevada, but often collected by locals—this jasper features swirling bands of pink, black, gray, and green. Beautiful when polished and suitable for slabs.



Dalmatian Jasper

A misnomer geologically (it’s actually an igneous rock with feldspar and arfvedsonite), this speckled black-and-white material is still beloved by lapidaries. It polishes well and takes whimsical shapes. Found throughout the Sierra Nevada foothills.

— Joel Kuennen, Mineral Chair

BENCH TIPS



DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.



DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill

gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Fore-dom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, ease up on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you may chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

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

UPCOMING GEM SHOWS

May 2-3, 2025 – Yucaipa, CA Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA
92399

Hours: Friday, May 2 5 PM – 10 PM, Sunday Noon
– 9 PM

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <http://YVGMS.org>

May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W, Ave H, Lan-
caster, CA

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4
PM

Admission and Parking are Free.

The CFMS Convention will be held in conjunction
with our show.

Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

Calendar last updated: 11/29/2024

May 16-18, 2025 – Vista, CA
Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 (in the Lower North Field)

Hours: Friday and Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4
Come on out for a fun-filled weekend to the Vista Gem and Mineral Society's Spring Gem and Mineral Market at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum. You will find everything from crystals and gems, rough slabs and cabs and even lapidary tools. The Artist's Alley will be returning focusing on our Lapidary Artist's and Jewelry Makers (Saturday only).

Not only can you find all the supplies you are looking for, but we are also known for our raffle held on Sunday afternoon. All prizes are donated by our vendors and VGMS. Come out and see what the new Grand Prize will be! All proceeds go to support our non-profit school and you do not need to be present to win.

There will be a food truck so you can even plan to join us for lunch. This is an outdoor show so we recommend wearing good walking shoes, sunscreen and hats. We hope to see you there!

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

May 30-June 1, 2025 -Reno NV
Artisan Craft Fair - Reno Gem and Mineral Society

May 30th, 2025 Friday 10am-6pm
May 31st, 2025 Saturday 10am-5pm
June 1st, 2025 Sunday 10am-3pm

Location: Reno Town Mall, 4001 South Virginia St (corner of Peckham & S. Virginia)
Admission and Parking are FREE.

Society members are offering for sale a variety of unique items: jewelry created from stones found throughout our State, local photography, home décor, and many more items. Many of our artists have won Local, Regional, and National competitions for their stone artwork!

You can also learn about our Society: educational community outreach programs, field trips we take, classes we offer (jewelry making, beading, lapi-

dary, silver fabrication, stone carving, etc).

Kids of all ages – Spin the Wheel of Fortune – a winner every time!

Learn how to become a member and get involved with our Society.

Love Rocks? Love Pretty Rocks? Come and join us for a fun-filled weekend!

May 31, 2025 – Laguna Hills, CA
South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society,
Anaheim Searchers Gem & Mineral Club, Laguna Woods Lapidary Club

Florence Sylvester Senior Center, 23721 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, Ca 92653

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 11 PM; Presentation 10 AM, Sale 11 AM – 2 PM

Turquoise: Natural or Otherwise. Presentation: 10-11, by Dayton Simmons, Turquoise Miner and Silversmith, 11am-2pm, sale of natural turquoise rough, cabs and jewelry, plus gems, minerals, rough, cabs and jewelry from three host clubs.

Contact: (408) 718-0504, edupuy@me.com

MAY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lorie Weinroth	7-May
Barbara Jones	12-May
Regina Lozano	15-May
Margy Stein	16-May
Merrilee Marks	17-May
Noel Graham	18-May
Hope Stutzman	22-May
Matthew Biggs	24-May
Margaret Oberg	28-May

MAY NEW MEMBERS

Briana Wise

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

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 - Brit Smith
Programs - Jette Sorensen
Publications Committee - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Social - Co-Chairs Pat Oberg, Steve Dover
Sunshine - Karen Wallen
Trading Post - Gary Mitchell
Webmaster - Bart Gampe
Workshops - Jette Sorensen
Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2025
Ana Maria Stambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith

2026 + 2027
TBD

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