



SEPTARIAN CONCRETIONS FROM SOUTHWEST UTAH

July 14th, 7:30 PM Multipurpose Room in the back of the Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

This month our program will be presented by Dick Weber on the "Septarian Concretions from Southwest Utah. Septarians have been collected as mineral specimens and lapidary material for more than one hundred years. They are prized for their bright yellow calcite and aragonite crystals, standing in sharp contrast to the gray limestone matrix. In re-

cent years this material has become popular for carvings and free-form jewelry.

Dick Weber holds a Masters Degree in Sedimentary Petrology from the University of Minnesota and worked as an exploration geologist throughout the United States. He began collecting Septarians in 1978 and has visited the collecting area several times over the years. As part of the presentation, Mr. Weber will show rough and polished specimens from his personal collection.

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.



IN MEMORIUM: Bruce Mensinger

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our lifetime member, Bruce Mensinger. Bruce served as Shop Foreman for many years and wrote informative articles in the Nugget on the use of the lapidary shop and its equipment. He also served in many other capacities over the years.



He took micro close-up photos of interesting stones, given to him as the Club's Historian. He would periodically prepare and show some of these amazing pictures as a meeting presentation.

He will be missed.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear All,

The Fiesta of Gems 2025 edition ran smoothly, joyfully, and swiftly, thanks to the efforts of a terrific volunteer force, and a great bunch of core members who handled the vendors and the volunteers so smoothly. Great thanks go out to those members who not only showed up but who put in their might, muscle, and time to help things run like clockwork. Bravo!!!

From my informal polling of our vendors, it was a robust year for sales. Attendance was very good, and lots of terrific feedback from attendees. Because the publicity was so well done this year, it didn't seem to make a difference that we didn't do a big mailing of our beautiful postcard.

The hourly door prizes were a hit, and this year's raffle prizes were outstanding, thanks in part to the persistence of our Vendor Chairs. We even sold out of raffle tickets by Sunday afternoon!

The sound system was better than it's ever been thanks to a family connection of a particularly help-

ful member, and we even had sound in the rotunda! The kids' corner was bustling, the plant sales were wonderful, and the cutting of the geodes was, as usual, a highlight for the youngsters.

The members' showcases looked better than ever this year, thanks to new lighting. The lunches and snacks were well done, and many thanks to those who brought the good cookies! The workshops were a hit, and hopefully we can continue to have more of those on a regular basis during the year.

Several mishaps occurred: one involved an unpleasant and unruly dog and its owner, and one awful one was the vandalization of one of our oldest vendors, who was robbed of their most valuable gold inventory during the breakdown of the show in the parking lot. Hopefully, the culprits will be caught and the goods returned. This incident serves to remind us all that vigilance must be active in the parking lot as well as inside our space.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the 14th for a presentation by Dick Weber on Septarian Concretions.

Congratulations to our club!

— Alexa Hunter, President

THE SHOW!

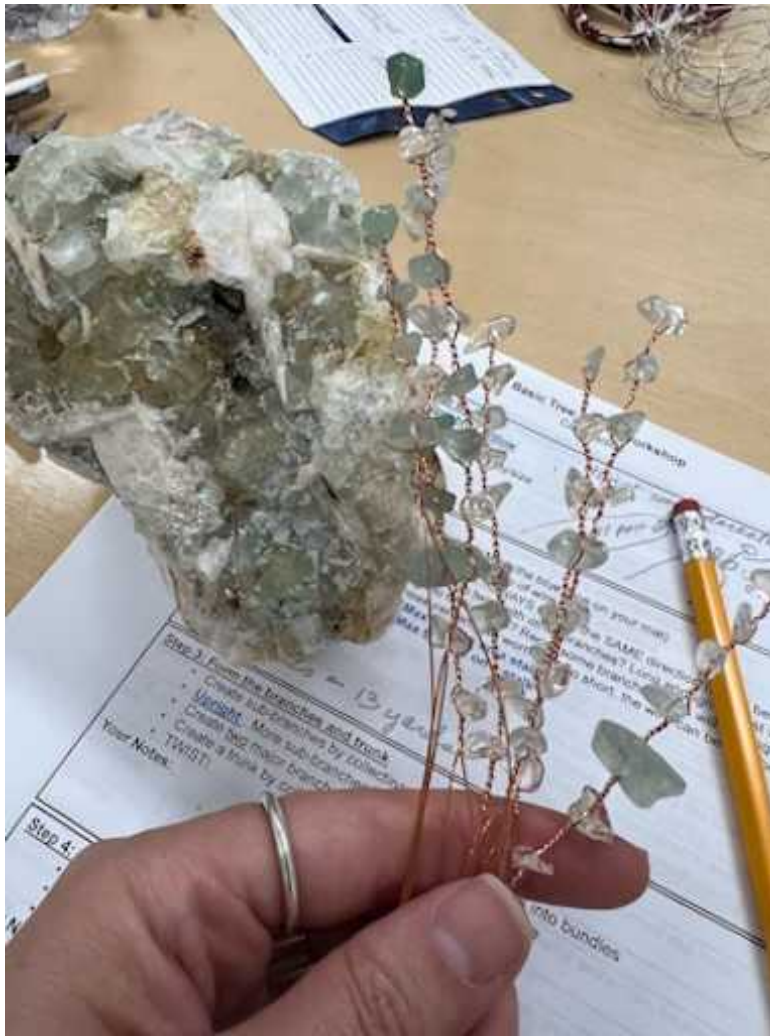
We want to thank everyone involved in making the 62nd annual Fiesta of Gems show such a great success during the last weekend of June. Attendance was great. The vendors had something for everyone and were happy with the outcome. We had a good number of people become new members. The workshops were terrific. The demonstrators showed off their skills. The kids loved the games and geode cutting.

The event proceeded smoothly, except for a "minor" issue with tables on Friday, a dog issue in the auditorium, and a lot of jewelry stolen from a vendor while they were wrapping up in the parking area Sunday evening.

FIESTA OF GEMS 2025







NEW LIFETIME MEMBER



Congratulations to Ken Rogers, who received a Lifetime Member certificate on the stage at the Fiesta of Gems show on Sunday. Ken has worn several hats during his membership, including arranging the Club's monthly programs for many years. He has always been known as one of the go-to people for identifying stones.

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.

JULY WORKSHOPS



Lapidary 101

Sunday, July 20, from 9 am to 12 pm 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.

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

Beginning Silversmithing

Learn to fuse and solder stacking rings using Argentium Silver. Argentium is a kind of Sterling, but it tarnishes much more slowly than regular Sterling. Bring a butane torch (Creme Brulé torch), jewelry flat-nose pliers, and jewelry needle files. You can get the Brulé torch and jewelry needle files at Amazon or your local hardware store. Just make sure the torch can reach at least 2200°F. You can purchase jewelry flat-nose pliers on Amazon or from a jewelry supply company.

The workshop fee is \$65, including materials, and is payable in advance via Zelle to jetsorensen@gmail.com. The workshop is limited to 4 members.

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



OPAL MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP REPORT

Location:

Opal Mountain, NW of Barstow California. Jasper, agate, common opal, chalcedony, and lots of volcanic (igneous) stuff like rhyolite and tuft.

Thursday May 1st:

Three club members met at Lola's Cafe around 11AM. Next, a quick stop at the Mojave River Valley Museum, where we went to gain advice on where to go and grab some informational books about the area around Calico, Mule Canyon and Opal mountain. We left the museum about 1:00 pm and headed toward Hinkley Road.

The drive out was long but accessible. Took a county road to Opal Mountain Road and found a flat spot near some low hills to camp. Took about one hour of easy dirt roads, but there were some long washboard sections. Upon choosing the camp site, we unloaded and set up home base.

Looking out across to the mountains to the other side of a wide valley, we decided to walk towards the hills and rock hound on the way. Didn't make it to the mountains, but found some interesting col-





lectables along the way.

Collecting Coordinates: (35.1415429,
-117.1531146)

Friday May 2nd:

Friday morning was warm and no wind so a perfect

day for exploring. Our main goal was to check out Scout's Cove, an old Tiffany & Co. mining site with a large hole carved into a small hillock where miners used to live. It a popular destination for those enjoying the opal mountain area. Drive was rocky with some steep parts, best for high-clearance 4 wheel.



We then decided to head off to a petroglyph site called Inscription Canyon. A punctured sidewall cut the trip short and added several hours of journey back to town to get a full replacement. Note: make sure your car has a reliable full spare. Doughnut not recommended.

We got back, made steaks and tri tip over the campfire for dinner. Around 9/10pm Cristine and her husband showed up at the site. After some conversation around the campfire for a while, slowly people went to bed.

Collecting Coordinates: (35.1869138, -117.2116418)

Saturday May 3rd:

We headed over the large mining site at the top of Opal mountain. Drive was accessible until base of mountain where we could only drive up so far. The hike up to the mine shaft was about a quarter mile of steep climbing. Once up to the mine we split up to rock hound for a few hours. Everyone found something to collect and finished with a smile. Cristina

called it a day and headed home. Eric and Harvey continued on to explore some of the more difficult four wheel drive trails, and went back to Scouts cove for more Opal mining. Noel went slightly East on easier roads to explore a white tuft outcrop. Everyone returned to camp around 4pm for a campfire and dinner.

Collecting Coordinates: (35.1575269, -117.1852733)

Sunday May 4th:

Departure day. Camp was packed up early everyone was on the road by 9am. Some of the group stopped by Crave Kaffee Haus in Barstow for some road lattes. The sunny Mojave weather transitioned into a damp and overcast Los Angeles.

Overall Trip Conditions:

BLM and county roads were accessible until deeper into the volcanic formation. Off road experience recommended and four wheel vehicle with high clearance for Scott's Cove and anything beyond

(NW-N) Opal Mountain.

Weather was mild to warm with some heavy winds. Scattered clouds with long patches of overcast. Some light sprinkling of rain with downpours in the distance. Comfortable nights with a waxing moon in the evening.

Additional Comments:

Harvey: I stayed up to watch a night sky phenomenon which I only recently observed once before and came to enjoy. Essentially, it is the setting of the moon over distant hills. I watched the half moon drop slowly to the mountain range horizon. As it reached closer and began to disappear an enchanting glow started to appear above the hills in all directions. When none the moon itself was no longer visible, a round glowing arc appeared where the moon set. Shafts of light were visible where the moon's last light reflected against the humidity in the air above. We see sunsets all the time, especially at the beach and enjoy the dropping globe and reddening sky and clouds. At night you get a similar experience with a "moonset" and a feeling of peace and tranquility infuse your whole being.

Noel: The surface foraging on this trip was great. I found several beautifully weathered and desert varnished pieces of jasper, opal, and agate. My best luck was in the scattered plots of desert pavement and old mine tailings, although I was also lucky enough to find a small shallow vein of common opal with a beautiful deep red in the center. The desert biology was active. We stumbled upon small patches wildflowers with many species still holding on into the hot weather. The vertebrates were out and about: several loggerheaded shrikes and ground squirrels, various small chirpy birds like warblers, gnat catchers, and verdins. When we pulled up to camp we were graced by a harriers hawk coasting right off the edge of the hill. Reptiles were decently abundant with six species found, including horned lizards and an old weathered shell of a large male Desert tortoise (how special!). Overall a beautiful desert trip.

All in all a great weekend. Getting to know fellow CCRMC members, finding rocks and enjoying the great outdoors will put a big smile on your face.

THE MINUTES

Board Meeting - Monday, June 9th

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Ellen Moe, Joannie Ripner, Gary Mitchell and Darrell Robb.

Called to order at 6:36 PM by president Alexa Hunter.

Lapidary Shop:

Steve fixed a leak.

Javier is having a lot of members coming in on Wednesday nights.

Fiesta of Gems – June 28th and 29th, set up on the 27th.

- Food – Stephanie stated that she paid for Saturday lunch and Darrell has paid for Sunday lunch. Stephanie went to the shop last Saturday and looked at the supplies that were left over from last year. There were even a few plastic clamshells left to use for vendor cookies.

- Volunteers – Joannie confirmed that there are 8 people signed up to volunteer on Friday. Most of the slots are filled for Saturday, but there are a lot of open slots on Sunday. The board members clarified some of the positions that must have people to do them. This includes some people on Friday afternoon and Sunday after the show who can lift heavy display cases.

- Treasurer – Darrell stated that 95% of event permit done. He spent 4 hours at City Hall earlier in the day. Need to reserve trucks, extra tables, Costco order of drinks. The stairs have been rented.

- Steve stated that there is one display case available.

- Jette stated that the vendor list and description needs to be posted on the website ASAP. Darrell stated he is working on it and Alexa will help.

Jette made a motion to make Ken Rogers a lifetime member. This was approved by the board.

7:09 PM - Stephanie made a motion to close the business meeting and Alexa seconded.

General Meeting

Called to order by president Alexa at 7:37 PM.

Fiesta of Gems June 28th and 29th, with set up on June 27th.

- We need volunteers on Sunday. Also need strong people for loading on Friday and unloading on Sunday. Sign up with Joanie.

- We need cookie donations by 1pm on Friday.

- Bring plants on Friday. If you have planters or plastic containers, can bring to the shop. If a pot doesn't have a hole, Steve can drill it.

- Treasurer – Darrell stated that club finances are in good shape. All show payments have been made. Almost all vendors have paid for their tables.

- Steve stated that there is one display case left.

- We still have raffle tickets for sale.

Shop – Steve stated that a leak has been fixed. Also that there are now two 8 inch flat laps set up for members to use.

Meeting ended at 7:47 per motion by Stephanie and seconded by Alexa.

Ellen Moe brought several pegmatite specimens and gave a presentation.

Some of the members filled gemstone bags for the show. Not a lot was needed. It was nice opportunity for members to socialize.

JULY NEW MEMBERS

Marci Baun
Surabhi Biyani
Pam Bush
Brian Deagon
Victor Duran
Noa Duran
Sophia Elcock
Auroro Fritzius
Pamela Kanda
Brandi Kantari
Erik Kindel
Richard Klotz

Alison Kmetko
Steven Kruse
Lorelei Laird
Robin Larzelere
Bob Larzelere
Cameo Litz
Annetta Luevano
May Malachi
Ashley Manahan
Annette Nesensohn
Cliff O'Daniel
Joanna Ouellette
Arianna Pennisi
Wayne Rosenberg
Korin Silberberg
Rebecca Switzer
Alexander Vonhungen

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alexa Hunter	3-Jul
Dower Jai Gervais	5-Jul
Monica Moreno	8-Jul
Javier Repetto de los Dolores	9-Jul
Milynn Moon	15-Jul
Olivia Salaben	17-Jul
Eric Zambrowicz	25-Jul
Auroro Fritzius	26-Jul
Kira Fish	28-Jul
Arlyn Torres	31-Jul

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

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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

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The CCRMC is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization.

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 - Merrilee Marks
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field Trips - Harvey Schwartz & Ben Granger
Librarian - Joannie Rippner
Membership - Regina Lozano
Minerals - Joel Kuennen
Photography - Brit Smith
Programs - Jette Sorensen
Publications Committee - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Social - Co-Chairs Peggy 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