



Rob calls “his indicator rocks” known as xenoliths that share the “ride or die” bond with our beloved and oldest gemstones, and several of the most incredible rough diamond specimens the world has ever seen.

Walk, hike, and see the trail through the lens of a prospector dedicated to discovery, and learn how he was able to follow a trail of ordinary rocks to riches.



DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH: ROB NORMAN

OCTOBER 13th, 7:30 PM [Multipurpose Room](#) in the back of the Veterans Memorial Complex, [4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230](#)

From their cataclysmic origin, to their residency well below our planet's surface, to the small percentage that risk ascent on one of our host's many alluvial “Elevator rides from Hell”, join Rob Norman for a discussion spanning billions of years, from the vantage point of our hardest mineral, from their creation to their incredible escape to the Earth's surface, and beyond.

Sharing his insights on what he believes mainstream science got right and wrong, an in-depth look at diamondiferous Kimberlite samples, as well as what

If the above feels a little Déjà vu-ish, yes, you have read it before. Rob Norman was initially scheduled for our August membership meeting. Unfortunately, he was involved in an accident and was unable to come. We are glad he's better and able to give us the presentation this month.



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

Hi All,

September's presenter, Leslie Aine McKeown, demonstrated from her studio in Prescott, AZ, how to make Intarsia, the technique of marrying several pieces of stone together to create a new cabochon. Leslie's wonderful presentation covered the history of the art while also showing examples of contemporary jewelry art using this technique.

A number of our members joined two field trips in September. One trip went to Flat Rock Beach in Palos Verdes, and the other hiked around Topaz Mountain in Utah, organized by another club. I heard that a number of exceptional specimens were found, so keep your eyes peeled for more trips this fall.

Our 2026 mineral focus for our Fiesta of Gems in late June is Malachite. We hope to have a postcard ready by December for distribution. Get your specimens and jewelry pieces in gear for display!

Meanwhile, the club continues to hold weekend workshops in lapidary and other jewelry techniques. This month we have a Wire Wrapping class, Bezel Setting a Stone, and Beginning Lapidary. These fill up fast, so be sure to sign up if you see one listed in the Nugget of particular interest.

We are approaching the end of the year and are seeking nominations for the 2026 election. If you are interested in taking on a position on the board or in a committee, please send an email to ccrmc-volunteers@culvercityrocks.org.

Additionally, we will be celebrating at our annual holiday party on December 8th at our usual location on Overland Boulevard. More details will be shared in our next Nugget.

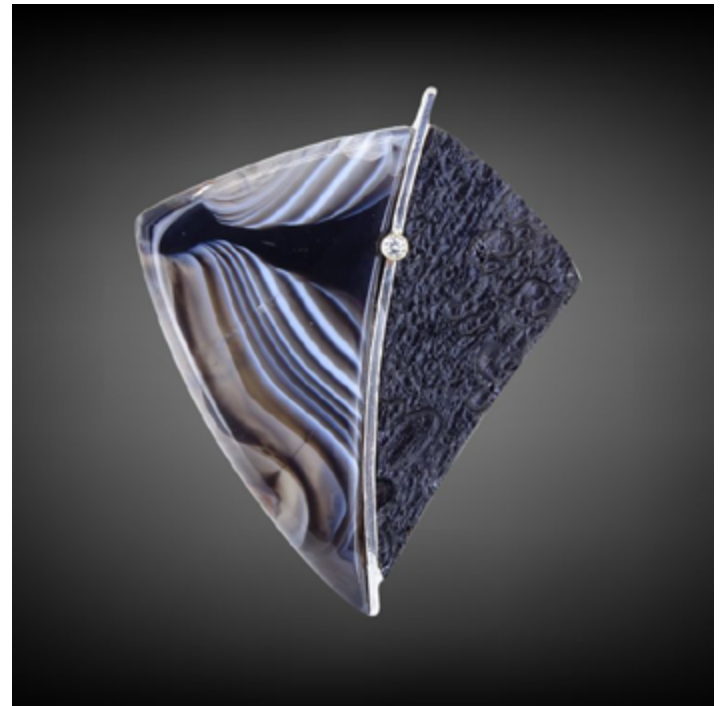
Happy fall to all,

— Alexa Hunter, President



IN MEMORIAM: FRANK HOLLIS

We are very sad to let you know that Frank Hollis passed away on September 20th. He and his wife, Virginia, have been members for over 51 years. Over the years, Frank held many different positions within the Club. He used to visit the shop frequently, and used to be a prolific jewelry-maker. Frank is survived by his wife, Virginia, his son, Kevin, and his grandson, Kevin Jr.



PROGRAM REPORT

September 8 was the monthly meeting of the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club at the Veterans' Memorial Complex.

At the meeting, presenter Leslie Aine McKeown demonstrated how to make "Intarsia," -- the technique of marrying several pieces of stone together to create a new cabochon.

It is an old technique, tracing its origin to the Renaissance in Italy, McKeown said. The technique has been embraced by many lapidary artists.

The meeting was unique for CCRMC in that, for the first time, the presenter was broadcasting live from her studio in Prescott, AZ. The attendees could view the presentation on a big screen and could also ask questions.

This meeting method opens the possibility to a wider range of future presenters who may not be able to attend in person.

Bryan Deagon
Nugget Reporter

2026 ELECTION IS NEAR

Election of officers and committees for 2026 is just around the corner. Review the lineup on the last page and see if there is something that interests you to make your membership more exciting. Send an email to ccrmc-volunteers@culvercityrocks.org for questions, suggestions, and nominations.

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: [Steve Hanna](#)

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.

SHOP REPORT

Javier Repetto is on Daddy Leave, and Steve Hanna is substituting on Wednesday evenings.

The front and back doors, as well as the door to the restroom, have been replaced, giving the building a whole new look.

When making a reservation for shop time, always use the links listed here in the Nugget, or on the Lapidary Shop page of the club's website; do not use the instructor's personal email or text.

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS



BEGINNING WIRE WRAPPING

Saturday, October 11, 11 AM – 3 PM Scout House – Janice Metz, Members and non-members

Learn the fundamentals of wire wrapping in this

hands-on beginner workshop using copper wire and a 27mm wide x 36 mm long (approximately 1" wide x 1.5" long) cabochon – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops.

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, October 12, 9 AM – 12 PM Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen, Limited to 4 members

Get to know the equipment in the Lapidary Workshop by making a polished cabochon – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops.



setting a cabochon in a bezel, including selecting and preparing bezel wire, measuring and fitting the stone, soldering the bezel to a backplate and ring, finishing and polishing the new fingering, and securing the stone using specialized tools to ensure a flush, polished, and properly fastened setting. – See the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops.

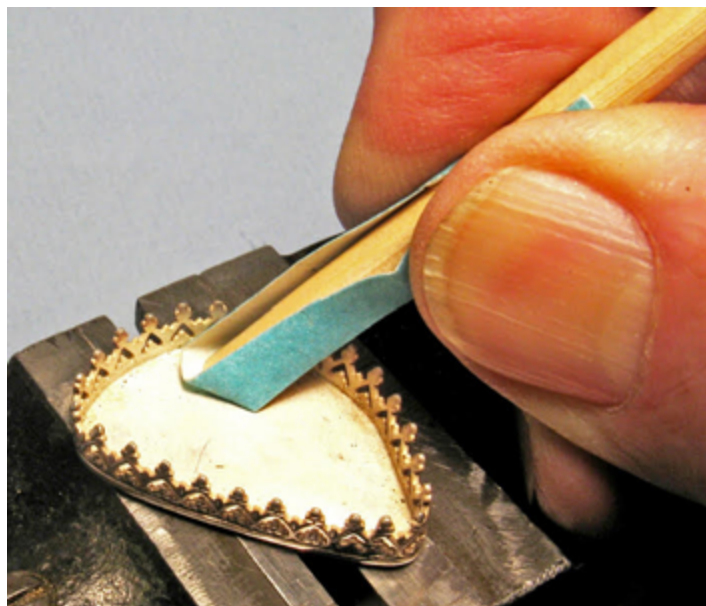
Check [our website](http://culvercityrocks.org) for future workshops!

INTRO TO THE ART OF HAND STAMPING

Saturday, October 18 – 11 AM – 3 PM Scout House – Monica Moreno, Members and non-members

Discover how to create metal adornments using tools and materials that you can easily utilize at home. During the workshop, these are some of the things you will learn to do:

Cut metal with a jeweler's saw • Sand and clean metal • Stamp designs, words, and/or add texture • Add Patina • Attach jump rings • Add a polish sealer. – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops.



BEZEL SET A STONE - FULL

Sunday, October 26, 9 AM – 12 PM Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen, Limited to 4 members

The workshop teaches the step-by-step process of

BENCH TIPS

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's

impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or the inside-bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.



DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a

variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F.

Get more of Brad's tips and tricks at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV).

— Brad Smith



FIELD TRIP REPORT - FLAT ROCK BEACH

Rocks, rocks, and more rocks are what we saw at the appropriately named Flat Rock Beach in Palos Verdes, CA. -- the location for the latest field trip for the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club on September 6.

Flat Rock is a challenging and adventurous location for both scuba diving and rock collecting. Though it's not a traditional swimming beach, Flat Rock offers excellent tide pools and beautiful scenery. From the parking spots, Flat Rock Beach is a steep quarter-mile trek. Visit during low tide as high tide can make the area's prime rock-collecting area difficult to access. Be sure to bring a bucket, and you can haul out rocks of all sizes and shapes.





UPCOMING FIELD TRIP: ROUND VALLEY MINE

After a very long hiatus, we are starting the 2025 fall season with a bang. On **Saturday, Oct 4th**, we will visit the Minerals Unlimited rock and mineral shop in Ridgecrest in the morning, then reconvene at the Round Valley mine in the late afternoon to collect scheelite after sunset and in the evening. Please confirm whether you're planning to join. If there is rain, the night trip will need to be rescheduled, but I'll still do the morning trip to Ridgecrest anyway.

We will gather at 10:30 AM at the first location in Ridgecrest, 156 miles north of Pasadena, a 2+ hour drive. The address is Minerals Unlimited, 127 N Downs St, Ridgecrest. The GPS location is: 35.6235, -117.6884. It is on a city street, easily accessible by low-clearance cars, near a Salvation Army distribution center. The shop is open at 10 AM, so if you arrive early, you can start browsing before others. Here is the link to Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/D6BvJvZEMs9L5HrP7>

The shop houses an excellent collection of various minerals and rocks for sale. You will see way too many rare minerals and rare or even extinct localities, including rare crystals from Searles Lake. Wendi (aka Ace) Elkins is the daughter of the famous Californian collectors and dealers, Ralph and Mimi Merrill. She will entertain us with some great stories about her parents and rocks & minerals. The collection might get sold next year, so it could also be a great opportunity to find something special at a price level not really seen anymore.

Around 1 PM to 1:30 PM, we will need to start heading out for the next segment of the trip towards Bishop. The next meeting place is 146 miles away, also a 2+ hour drive. Leave ample time to fill up and eat something on the way.

Here is the Google Map link: <https://maps.app.google.com/jybPm4DZ7XVkJRVVg8>

At 5:00 PM, we will meet on the side of S Round Valley Road, about 10 miles past Bishop. Turn SW on Sawmill Rd exit off US-395 and then right (NW) at the first intersection, then continue on S Round Valley Road for 2.6 miles to a dirt road turnoff at this GPS location: 37.3924, -118.5464. The map screenshot for the last segment is below. The mine is marked by the green arrow in case somebody gets there late:

The scheelite at the mine is quite abundant. Hard to distinguish in the sunlight, so the best UV collecting is after the sun sets, 6:30 PM on that day. Bring your portable short-wave UV flashlights for the hunt. The red flashlight is great for walking around in the dark and not blinding everybody else in the process. I'll have one extra at the back of my car for people who don't have the SW UV. The best material is mostly on the steep slopes, which will require good mobility. However, a lot of the fluorescent material can be found just lying on the ground in the area.

Nice brown garnet can be found in the vugs after etching out the calcite. The green crystals are mostly epidote, but it can also be seen in pale yellow and pale brown. Some rocks are covered with layers of waxy green to gemmy blue chrysocolla gel. Sometimes the cracks in the rock hide some malachite needles. There are also some bismuth minerals, like yellow to pink bismutite that can be enjoyed without magnification. Very nice, but tiny bismuthinite needles can be found in quartz. Sparkly white micro balls of eulytine, a bismuth silicate, were found in veins of chalcedony. The most surprising of them all is an exceptionally rare dreyerite, a bismuth vanadate, found only in Australia and Germany until now. The rarities have been identified using the Raman spectroscope at the Caltech Mineralogy lab, thanks to the hospitality of our members, Prof. George Rossman and Prof. Bob Housley.

The space on the top pad is limited to about 6-7 cars, so people spending the night will get priority there, but there are many more spaces on the turns and pads below as well. Please let me know if you are planning to camp out.

Hope to see you all there,

MarekC, marek.chorazewicz@keysight.com



THE MINUTES

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club Meeting Monday August 11th 2025

BOARD MEETING

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Regina Lozano, Karen Wallen, Joannie Rippner, Ellen Moe, Gary Mitchell, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes and Darrell Robb.

Called to order at 6:58 PM by president Alexa Hunter.

Membership – Regina stated we have 192 members Gary stated that we got an estimate to replace the 3 doors at the lapidary shop. Motion made by Gary to approve expenditure of \$3500 to replace the 3 doors. Jette seconded the motion.

Board approved the expenditure.

Stephanie requested approval to have alley sale on November 22nd . Board approved with an understanding that only active members participate as vendors and no one uses business name on their table.

Karen wanted to confirm the featured stone for the 2026 Fiesta of Gems. Per prior vote, board has agreed on malachite. Gary will provide specimens for postcards.

Karen brought up an issue about the silent auction at the August picnic. She agreed to discuss the issue further with club president Alexa outside of the board meeting.

7:33 pm Alexa made a motion to end the meeting. It was seconded by Stephanie.

GENERAL MEETING

Called to order by president Alexa at 7:35 PM.

Finances – Treasurer Darrell stated we had a great summer, especially due to the Fiesta of Gems. The Culver City City Council grant for the 2025 show.

He would like to send a thank you to the officials who are so kind to the club.

\$810.25 was made at the August picnic silent auction.

Regina stated that we now have 192 members.

Club field trip to Palos Verdes the past Saturday. Lots of nice agate and other specimens found by club members. A club from Victorville was also there.

Club will have Alley Sale on November 22nd . This is for members to sell mineral specimens, tools and handmade jewelry.

Alexa announced that the featured gemstone for the 2026 Fiesta of Gems will be malachite.

Meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by,
Stephanie Dangott, Recording Secretary

UPCOMING ROCK AND GEM SHOWS

5TH ANNUAL LAKE ELSINORE ROCK & CRAFT SHOW

October 4, 2025 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com
October 4-5, 2025 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

“Earth Treasures”, Mosasaurus Dinosaur Display, 25 Vendors, Display Cases of Mineral Collections, Beads, Fossils, Demonstrations, Kids Corner, Silent Auction

Contact: (530) 273-0871, jan.2@att.net
Website: <https://www.ncgms.org>



stories at the Fall Festival of Gem and Minerals Street Fair! Free admission, free parking and loads of fossils, minerals and gems. Whether you're a collector or just curious, there's something for everyone.

Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

55TH ANNUAL OPAL GEM & JEWELRY SHOW
October 18-19, 2025 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Contact: (714) 501-9959, angeldragonofflight@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.opalsociety.org>



28TH ANNUAL GEM SHOW
October 18, 2025 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307

GEMS ON THE HILL

October 11-12, 2025 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society
1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.lbmineralgem.org>

FALL FESTIVAL OF GEMS AND MINERALS

October 12, 2025 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: Sunday only 9 AM – 4 PM

Fall Festival of Gems and Minerals: Experience Nature's Wonders at the Gem and Mineral Street Fair! Join us for a day of dazzling colors and captivating



Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
28th Annual Gem Show. Free. Displays, dealers.
crafts, raffle, games, silent auction and more.

Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com

UNIQUE AND RARE CALIFORNIA JADE

October 18, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
The Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center
Ave., Anaheim, CA
Hours 9 AM – 2 PM

Unique and Rare California Jade: Jade rough for
sale, jewelry, polished stones. Bring a Jade speci-
men for experts to give an opinion. Afterwards, car-
pool to the nearby Annual Opal Show.

Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

GEM DIEGO

November 1-2, 2025 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning
Road, San Diego, CA 92106 (in Point Loma)
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4
PM

Gem Diego, San Diego's Finest Gem & Mineral
Show – presented by San Diego Mineral & Gem
Society. FREE parking, admission and gem/mineral
ID, 29 dealers, 20+ exhibits, lapidary demos, kid's
zone, door prizes do not have to be present), and
plenty more! Service Animals Only! Eateries next
door.

Contact: (858) 945-4762, benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.sdmg.org>

INDIAN WELLS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

November 1-2, 2025 – Ridgcrest, CA
Ridgcrest Desert Empire Fairgrounds
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 9 AM – 5 PM

FREE ADMISSION! Gem Displays, Geode Cutting,
Silent Auction Sunday will be a field trip to the
club's jasper claim!
Website: iwgms.org

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Justin Binns
Sess Buckley
Marc Lande
Kari Morioka
Emily Short
Sarah Whitelocke
Becca Wright

OCTOBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Briana Wise	1-Oct
Caleb KM	4-Oct
Jason Utas	6-Oct
Brian Hester	6-Oct
Minda Moe	10-Oct
Robby Shearon	10-Oct
John Whittaker	11-Oct
Stacy Stegmaier	14-Oct
Kit Wilkinson	14-Oct
Orlando Gonzales	16-Oct
Brit Smith	22-Oct
Christie Stegmaier	22-Oct
Alexander Vonhungen	23-Oct
Nickie Jessup	25-Oct
Jennifer Tong	26-Oct
Steve Dover	27-Oct

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

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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