



ARGENTINA'S OTHER AGATES



Monday, July 13, in the Scout House by the Lapidary Shop, 10866 Culver Blvd, Culver City, at **7:30 PM**.

Although the brightly colored Condor agate is undoubtedly the most well-known of the Argentinian agates, there are several others that collectors find highly desirable.

Argentina is one of only a few countries with a large variety of colorful agate deposits available in commercial quantities. A challenge to find, often under hazardous conditions, they are found in some of the

most remote regions of this vast country.

The majority of these have been discovered since the 1990s and have been mined and brought to the market by native Argentinian Luis De Los Santos.

Mary Pat Weber is a geologist and became an avid collector of the popular Condor agate shortly after they were introduced here in the United States. Since then, she has added to her collection with the "others". This month, she will introduce you to these lesser-known agates and display a variety of specimens from her 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.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear All:



The Fiesta of Gems 2026 edition was widely considered an outstanding success from all corners of the auditorium. As I walked the mayor of Culver City, Freddy Puza, through the auditorium, before his lovely opening speech and presentation of our Commendation from the City Council, he asked me what my favorite part of the show was. I was hard pressed not to answer immediately, 'The showcases of our members' work.' Thank you to all who put together such fantastic displays this year, and special shout-out to Steve for keeping the cases in great shape and setting them up so well. I admitted to the Mayor how hard it was to pick favorites. We moseied through the room for a good 40 minutes, stopping and engaging with different vendors and the Mayor, showing genuine interest and enthusiasm for all of our work in putting together such a great show.

Another special guest, Justin Jampol, the president of the Wende Museum, and the generous person behind the recent donation for our new storage container, visited the show with his kids and gave high praise for the show.

The vendors went home very pleased with their sales, and with our extra good security in place this year, thanks to Gary. The vendors also raved about their delicious cookie trays and lunches, thank you Stephanie, as well as to all who brought in treats. This year's valiant efforts of Alain and Margy and the keen support team of Karen, Darrell, and Janelle, together did terrific work.

Janelle's displays of the big raffle prizes, the vendor's donations, looked especially lovely this year. And speaking of Janelle, thanks to her good gene pool, her brother, Chris, gave us excellent sound. Volunteerism was strong and organized super well due to the expert planning of Joannie and Regina. Thank you to all members who showed up.

The plant department looked especially beauti-

ful this year, thanks to Grace, Joyce and Grace's granddaughter, who once again made wonderful, delicate origami decorations. Thank you to all this year's propagators, too.

The workshops worked their magic and gave participants a cool dose of one of the wonderful features of our club, thanks to Regina, Jette, Monica, and Janice.

The cutting of the geodes had long lines of kids this year, thanks to the sharp skills of Darren. The Kids' Corner looked cooler than ever and was always filled with a crowd thanks to Ellen's amazing diligence in putting it together.

Thank you to Brit for the super postcard this year, and special shout-out to Barbara Fier, who always helps with the important part of getting the postcard rolling.

Special thanks to Janice for getting the show on blast in so many ways, including print and social media. And special thanks to Darrell, who handled the endless documents involved in pulling the show together, and, along with Janelle, wrote the grant which paid for about 90% of our expenses.

Finally, special thanks to those brave soldiers who prepped the ground for our new storage unit, and even sustained some injuries in the process of making it look so good, including Ana, Darrell, and Michael.

Forgive me if I left you out of the thank yous. This was a tremendous team effort.

See you soon.
Alexa



FIESTA OF GEMS 2026







Thank you for coming and see you next year!



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Two members were given Lifetime Awards at the Fiesta of Games show.



Ellen Moe has been a member for 25 years. During that time, she has worn many club hats. Currently, she is Federation Chair, and you might best know her as being in charge of the Kids' Zone at the show, something she has done for a long time.



Janice Metz has been a member for over 30 years. She has also filled many positions. She has been the club's Publicity Chair for around 12 years. Thanks to that, many members have joined or come to the Fiesta of Gems because they saw something about the club.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

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

The shop is open:

Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM – Gary Mitchell *through 6/10 only, until we find an instructor to take over*
ccrmc-wednesdayshop@culvercityrocks.org

Saturdays 12 to 4 PM – Steve Dover
ccrmc-saturdayshop@culvercityrocks.org

Sundays from 12 to 4 PM – Jette Sorensen
ccrmc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org

The shop is located behind the Scout House
Go to the [Lapidary Shop on our website](#) to make a reservation, or use the links above to send an email to check for availability; do not just show up.

If you have not made a reservation, you can call the shop at 310-836-4611 during open hours to see if there is room.

Wear old clothes. Do not wear open-toed shoes or short shorts. Tie long hair back. Bring eye and ear protection; masks are voluntary.



SHOP REPORT

Sometime in late May or early June, someone used the soldering station and left it in poor shape: equipment was rearranged, three jars of Handy Flux were left sitting on the GRS Third Hand station, the pickle pot and tumbler were both contaminated, and a pair of copper tongs, along with more than half of the steel shot for the tumbler, disappeared entirely.

This kind of conduct isn't acceptable in the shop. Members are expected to clean up after themselves when finished at a workstation, report any problems to the instructor, and never take something that doesn't belong to them.



JULY WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 9 AM to 12 PM
at the club's Lapidary shop
Instructor – Jette Sorensen

Description: 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.

Safety Notes: Wear old clothes, you will get wet. Wear closed-toe shoes. Long hair should be tied back away from your face. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves. Bring eye and ear protection.

Workshop fee: \$25 payable in advance. Payable in advance via Zelle to jetsorensen@gmail.com

Limited to four members.

Email [Jette Sorensen](mailto:jette.sorensen@gmail.com) for registration and payment information.



NEW STORAGE!

We have, for what seems like forever, had two sheds that deteriorated over time. Critters and small animals have had a ball in them, and they were broken into several times. Thanks to Ellen Moe and Steve Dover, the contents were sorted, including stuff from the early days of the club, and they brought it down to what had to be moved to a minimum, amid unspeakable droppings. Thank you, Ellen and Steve.

Thanks to a grant from a charitable entity associated with the Wende Museum, we received a grant for \$5,000 for new storage. We now have a 20-foot container, which is difficult to break into. It is large enough to meet our current needs.

The ground was leveled and prepared for the container by hard-working volunteers, who were given coffee and exceptionally good donuts. A walkway was also made by volunteers. We wish Ana a speedy recovery of the finger she injured in the process.

We want to thank all the volunteers for their great work, including Ellen Moe, Ana Guimaraes, and Darrell Robb, who went above and beyond.

BENCH TIPS

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it's hand-held in a flexshaft or a Dremel. Bits can easily break with too much pressure or if they tilt a little while in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces the friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler. ~~~

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers.

Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see if it hangs straight.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

— Brad Smith

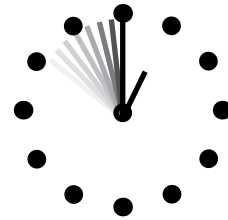


JUNE NEW MEMBERS

Laura Chafe
Mike Curry
Nicholas Decker
Dario DeLeon
Avrielle Gallagher
Monica Gutierrez
Chloe Hsu
James Kinsella
Annaliese Miller
Sonya Nimri
Tracy Silva
Helen Tavetian
Joseph Taylor
Gabrielle Voit
Julie Yeh

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gina Bender
Katherine Chappell
Pia Cortes
Nicholas Decker
Dana Flores
Dower Jai Gervais
Josh Gogarty
Steven Gridley
Alexa Hunter
Jenna Labriola
Elizabeth Laffan
Amanda Lockrow
Annaliese Miller
Milynn Moon
Monica Moreno
Olivia Salaben
Gabrielle Voit



THE MINUTES

Meeting Monday, June 8th, 2026

Board Meeting

In Attendance – Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Joanie Rippner, Ellen Moe, Darrell Robb, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes, Margie Stein, Janelle Williams, Brit Smith, Jette Sorensen, and Emi Onishi.

Called to order at 6:45 PM by President Alexa Hunter.

Fiesta of Gems – June 27 and 28

Stephanie has ordered lunch for Saturday and Sunday. Peggy will bring bagels on Saturday, and Ana will bring donuts on Sunday. Some new breakroom supplies will need to be purchased due to damage to supplies that were in storage.

Cookies – Alexa wants everyone to bring cookie donations for the vendors by 1 PM on Friday. Requesting donations of nice cookies from club members. Joannie is working on filling empty volunteer slots. Board voted to hire a helper for Friday setup and Sunday teardown of display cases and other heavy items. There is also a need for more members to volunteer for security on Saturday and Sunday.

Tablecloths still need to be washed. There are 10 bins full with about 10 tablecloths each.

Margy discussed the amount of tables that need to be rented and getting vendors confirmed. She also stated that she has asked Emi to assist with some vendor chair tasks.

There will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, the 15th at 7 PM.

Darrell stated that \$1600 was used to purchase bricks and gravel for the base of the new storage

container.

Stephanie made a motion to end the meeting, and Jette made a second. Meeting ended at 7:00 PM.

General meeting

Called to order by President Alexa Hunter at 7:35 PM.

Quorum of members in attendance. Alexa made a motion to accept the minutes from the past several months, and Jette gave a second. Members agreed to accept the minutes.

Fiesta of Gems June 28th and 29th

Alexa reminded that everyone needs to volunteer. Stephanie announced that food has been ordered. Steve announced that 2 display cases are still available for club members.

Ellen needs a large easel for the kids' corner. Janelle said she would bring one; there is also one in the storage shed.

Joanie announced that we need volunteers for security, games, and greeters.

Margy announced that she is still looking for a couple of vendors that sell slabs and rough, and tool dealers.

There will be 8 workshops at the show. We need volunteers to wash tablecloths.

We need volunteers this week to get the ground ready for the new storage shed.

A lot of members brought magazines to the meeting for other members to take.

Jette stated that there will be a Lapidary 101 next Sunday.

Jette made a motion to end the meeting, and Alexa made a second.

Meeting ended at 7:50 pm, Club members created gemstone grab bags for the show.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Orcutt Mineral Society's 58th Rock & Gem Show

July 31, Aug 1-2, 2026 - Nipomo, CA

Hours: Fri & Sat, 10 am to 5 pm; Sun, 10 am to 4 pm

Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School, 525 North Thompson Avenue, Nipomo, CA 93444

60 outside and 12 inside dealers; kids booth and food trucks.

Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com / 805-929-2783



FIELD TRIPS

Yay! We have Field Trip Chairs again. Michael Sa-deghi stepped forward and will arrange field trips starting in October.

When field trips are overnight, Harvey Schwarts will help arrange them.



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.

2026 Elected Officers

President - Alexa Hunter

Vice President - Steven Dover

Treasurer - Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary - Stephanie Dangott

Corresponding Secretary: Ellen Moe

Parliamentarian - Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

2026 Committee Chairs

Education - Merrilee Marks

Federation Director - Ellen Moe

Field Trips - Michael Sadeghi, Harvey Schwartz

Librarian - Joannie Rippner

Membership - Regina Lozano

Minerals - Joel Kuennen

Photography - Brit Smith

Programs - Jette Sorensen

Publications - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen

Publicity - Janice Metz

Social - Co-Chairs Peggy Oberg, Steve Dover

Sunshine – Stephanie Dangott

Trading Post - Gary Mitchell

Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2026 + 2027

TBD