



BACK TO THE MOON

NASA plans to send humans back to the Moon for the first time in 50 years with the Artemis missions. The first crewed lunar surface landing will be Artemis IV, which will visit the lunar South Pole to search for water ice.

The Moon is mainly made up of volcanic rock (unfortunately not cheese!); basalt (the dark splotches), and anorthosite (the bright regions).

Dr. Elisha Jhoti from UCLA will present on how NASA is preparing to send humans back to the Moon, how we can simulate the Moon on Earth, and will show the club some real Moon dust collected by Apollo astronauts!

Elisha recently successfully defended her PhD in Lunar and Mars Science at UCLA. She is the Workforce Chair of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group, UCLA, and a CCRMC member.

Monday, September 14 at 7:30 PM, in the Multipurpose Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230, presented by Dr. Elisha Jhoti.

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:

Many thanks to all who came to the August picnic with donations and side dishes. And special thanks to our grill master, Rick Shaffer, whose family provided delicious hamburgers and hot dogs for the occasion. Rick is soon moving to Idaho with his family and will be greatly missed. Hopefully he will come down and visit once in a while!



We had some wonderful items at our silent auction, and any items that did not sell will go to the February silent auction.

Our August speaker, Professor Amy Mainzer, had to cancel at the last minute. Instead, she sent PhD's Valerie Jaramillo and Olivia Logan from UCLA, who gave a very interesting presentation on the NEO (Near Earth Objects) Project and its tracking of asteroids and meteorites. Some of these objects are being tracked as far away as around Jupiter. They explained, among other things, that asteroids and meteorites are not in big clusters like they are portrayed on TV and in movies; they are, in fact, quite far apart. Val and Olivia brought a very nice selection of meteorites from UCLA's Meteorite Museum, the largest collection of meteorites on the West Coast of the United States.

The shop will now be open on 2 Wednesday evenings a month, which is great news. Thank you to Marc Whittemore for stepping up as our newest shop steward.

Please consider stepping up and taking on a position at our club this year. Volunteerism is how we will sustain our club for the future. As someone who has volunteered for the last 9 years (as have most of our major volunteers), it is very **possible to hold down a full-time job and contribute regularly to the upkeep of our club!** Don't be shy. Put in a little time to help CCRMC have a healthy future.

Cheers, Alexa



BEATING THE HEAT

On one of the hottest days in Culver City, Sunday, August 23, at 85F, the shop was honored by the visit of a Praying Mantis, sitting in the upper corner of the front door. It just sat there, motionless, for what seemed like hours. When we closed at 4 PM, it was moving across the top of the door frame. Seeing a Praying Mantis is a reminder to slow down, meditate, and trust your inner wisdom.



WEDNESDAY EVENING SHOP IS BACK, SORT OF

Wednesday shop is back – for now, just the first two Wednesdays of each month, starting September 2, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Marc Whittemore will be the instructor.

We are actively looking for someone to become an instructor for the other two Wednesdays of the month. If you think you qualify, send an email to ccrmc-instructors@culvercityrocks.org

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

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

The shop is open:

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

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

Wednesday
First and second Wednesday of the month only
From 4 to 8 PM
ccrmc-First2Wednesdayshop@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.



SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101 SEPTEMBER 13, 9 AM – 12 PM

at the club's Lapidary Shop
Instructor – Jette Sorensen

Description: Get to know the equipment in the club's lapidary workshop. Use a trim saw to cut the outline for a cabochon. Shape the stone on the grinding wheels, then polish it with the Expando wheels. 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.

\$25 CCRMCMembers only. Limited to 4 members. Payable in advance via Zelle to jetsorensen@gmail.com. Email Jette for availability at jetsorensen@gmail.com

BEGINNING BEZEL SETTING (PREMADE BEZELS)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 9 AM TO 12 PM

(This workshop is already getting filled; repeated on

Sunday, October 4, 9 AM – 12 PM)

In the Lapidary Shop,
10866 Culver Blvd
Instructor - Jette Sorensen



Description: In this hands-on jewelry-making workshop, you'll learn one of the most elegant and timeless stone-setting techniques — the bezel setting — while building practical soldering and finishing skills you'll use throughout your jewelry journey.

We'll begin at the bench with a mini torch, learning how to prepare and solder a premade bezel cup onto a skinny ring. You'll practice reading the heat, applying solder with precision, and achieving a clean, secure join between the two components. Using pliers, you'll refine the bezel cup's positioning and make any small adjustments needed to keep everything aligned and true before and after soldering. Needle files will help you clean up any rough edges or excess solder, leaving a polished, professional result.

Once your bezel is firmly in place, you'll move on to the satisfying work of setting a cabochon stone. You'll learn how to select a stone that fits the be-

zel correctly and seat it evenly before using a bezel pusher, bezel roller, and burnisher to gradually work the metal walls up and over the stone's girdle. You'll discover how these three tools work in sequence — pushing, rolling, and finally burnishing the bezel to a smooth, reflective finish that holds your stone securely and beautifully.

By the end of the session, you'll leave with a finished ring you've made yourself and the foundational knowledge to tackle bezel setting in your own studio practice.

Time permitting, you will also set small cabochons in small bezel cups and prong settings.

What to bring: Skinny rings from prior workshops, if possible. Eye protection, prescription or readers. We bring: All tools needed, Argentium Sterling Silver, premade bezels, prong settings, tubing, and cabochons.

Workshop fee: \$80.00. Payable in advance via Zelle to jetsorensen@gmail.com. Prior soldering experience required. For reservation, email jetsorensen@gmail.com. Limited to four CCRMC members.

KINTSUGI

**OCTOBER 3, 11 AM
– 3 PM**

In the Scout House,
10866 Culver Blvd.
Instructor, Monica
Moreno



Discover the art of Kintsugi through the repair of broken stone. In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn the traditional philosophy and techniques of Kintsugi while using contemporary, accessible materials instead of gold. The methods taught can later be adapted to traditional Kintsugi with precious metals, but this workshop emphasizes that beauty and meaning are not dependent on expensive materials.

What is Kintsugi?

The Japanese art of kintsugi involves using a strong adhesive mixed with metallic powder—such as gold, silver, or copper—to bond the fractured pieces together of an object while proudly accentuating

the visible scar lines.

Together, we will transform fractured stones into enduring objects that celebrate resilience rather than conceal breakage. Along the way, we'll explore how repairing meaningful objects can become a practice of honoring memory, preserving personal history, and recognizing the emotional significance that ordinary materials can hold. Participants will leave with a completed repaired stone, foundational Kintsugi skills, and a renewed perspective on restoration as both an artistic process and a metaphor for the stories we choose to carry forward.

All materials and tools will be provided. No prior experience necessary.

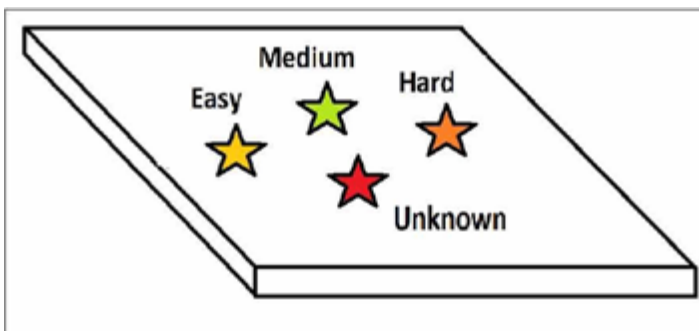
Things you could bring: If you have them, please bring a lead pencil and permanent marker, your prescription eyeglasses and/or safety glasses, and an apron if you prefer your clothing not get dirty.

Safety Notes: Please wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Long hair should be tied back away from your face. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves.

Workshop fee: \$48.00; \$38.00 for CCRMC Members. Payable in advance with registration.

REGISTRATION: www.Desviado.com/event-list

BENCH TIPS

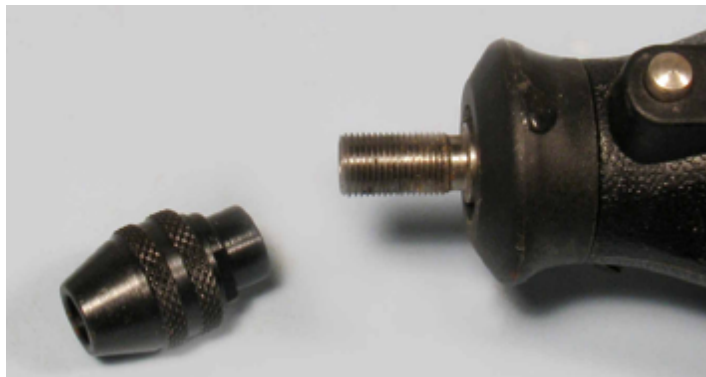


IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire

solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown piece. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

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

— Brad Smith

AUGUST NEW MEMBERS

Alex Pino
Natalie Ferguson
Christian May-Suzuki
Leslie Neal-Youngkins
Goni Bissell

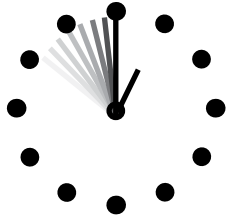
SEPTEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Arndrayla Etame
Ciara Keane
Carolynn Krueger
Annetta Luevano
Rafaela Maldonado-Ellman
Pauline Tso
Romaine Fekade Selassie
Cameo Litz
Bettina Karallus
Julie Yeh

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THE MINUTES

Meeting Monday, August 10, 2026

Board Meeting

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

Called to order 6:32 pm by club president Alexa

Motion made by Darrell to approve the minutes from last month's executive session, and Jette seconded. All approved.

Treasury – Darrell states club is in good shape.

Some board members had a meeting with a liaison from the Wende Museum. A new building is going to be constructed a few years in the future. It was suggested that we look at how other clubs have set-ups to get some ideas. Ellen said she is going to the CFMS meeting in Reno soon and will check out that club.

Picnic this Saturday at Lindberg Park 10 am to 3 pm. Set up is 10 am. Potluck and bring your own drinks. Silent auction is noon to 1pm.

Shop is in good shape.

Club needs new Board of Directors. Several board members volunteered.

An audit is needed for our books, need to look at Bylaws for criteria.

Need nominating committee for 2027 elected positions.

Fiesta of Gems

Vendor chairs will have a follow up meeting soon.

Post mortem meeting for all chairs is tentatively scheduled for August 29th. Workshop participation is declining. This appears to be because we do not currently have someone doing social media outreach.

Motion made by Jette to end the meeting, seconded by Steve, at 7:26 pm.

General Meeting

Called to order by President Alexa at 7:36 pm.

Picnic this Saturday at Lindberg Park.

Potluck, with set up beginning at 10 am and lunch at 11 am. There is a silent auction and members are encouraged to bring donations. The auction is from noon to 1 pm and Alexa went over auction etiquette. Wende Museum meeting continue about creating a new space for the lapidary shop. The club is asking for member ideas.

Alley sale will possibly be scheduled for early November.

Club needs board of directors volunteers.

The shop is in good shape.

We need someone to volunteer to publicize workshops on social media.

3 workshops coming up.

1. Introduction to rock hounding. August 22 at the Scout House, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
2. Enameling, but class might be full.
3. Prong setting stones.

Treasurer Darell told the club we made \$2500 at the Fiesta of Gems raffle. We are currently dividing the proceeds between the Scout House and LA Goal. Additionally, our club got a grant from the city that covered most of the cost of the auditorium facility rental for the Fiesta of Gems. We have also gotten a grant for 2027.

Meeting ended at 7:58 pm

Presentation "Finding Things That Go Bump in the Night: Meteors and Comets" presented by a professor and graduate student from UCLA.

- Stephanie Dangott, Recording Secretary

UPCOMING SHOWS

Sept 18-20, 2026 – CFMS Show - Reno, NV
Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 4590 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89502

Reno Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: Friday and Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

The Jackpot of Gems is one of the premier gem and mineral shows in the western United States, attracting collectors, families, educators, students, and enthusiasts from across the region. The Show features dealers from around the country, competitive exhibits judged under AFMS rules, demonstrations, educational programming, and hands-on activities for children.

The 2026 Show is especially significant as it is being held in conjunction with the CFMS, expanding

both our reach and our impact.

Contact: showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org
Website: renogms.org

Sept 19-20, 2026 - Arcadia CA
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007

Pasadena Lapidary Society
Hours: Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM
66th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Contact: marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com / (626) 260-7239
Website: pasadenalapidary.org

Sept 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Website: cvgms.rockz



The Pasadena Lapidary Society presents
66th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
September 19-20, 2026
10 am-5 pm (Sat.), 10 am-4pm (Sun)
FREE
Arcadia Masonic Center,
50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA

Tourmaline, Pala, CA



Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society 64th Annual
GEM SHOW
Sept 19 & 20, 2026
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairground Road, Monterey
Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Vendors, Rocks, Food Truck,
Jewelry, Silent Auction, Beads, Equipment, Exhibits,
and Kids Stuff
Saturday & Sunday 10 to 5 Admission \$6
\$1 OFF
with this coupon
Children under 12 with Adult are FREE
Website: www.cvgms.rockz and like us on Facebook

Sept 26, 2026 - Lake Elsinore, CA
32113 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: 10am-4pm

6th Annual Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society Winter Rock & Craft Show. There will be a sphere making demonstration, a club mineral & fossil opportunity drawing, and a Wheel of Fortune for kids both young and old.

Contact: berylman50@aol.com, (909) 208-6956

and metaphysical items. Also unique handcrafted items by local artisans. There will kids' activities and demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts. \$5 Admission (Children, 12 and under free). Free parking

Contact: 2026show@slogem.org
Website: slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/

More shows at cfmsinc..org

Sept 26-27, 2026 - San Luis Obispo, CA
Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Hours: 10AM - 5PM

Gems By The Sea will feature dealers selling a fantastic array of gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

SAN LUIS OBISPO GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Gems by the Sea
Presented by the San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

Saturday & Sunday, September 26th and 27th, 2026 • 10 AM to 5 PM
Alex Madonna Expo Center • 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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