



July 2026

Volume 36, Issue 7

Rockonteur

The Monthly Newsletter of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds

In this issue

President's Message.....	1
Board/Committee Members.....	2
Upcoming Events.....	2
May General Meeting.....	2-6
Junior Rockhounds.....	7-9
Upcoming Shows.....	10-12
Pedotti Field Trip.....	13-14
CFMS.....	15-19
Fireworks.....	20-21
Birthstones.....	22
SLR info.....	23



P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447



President's Message

Greetings Rockhounds,

For most of June, I was back east on a three-week combo business and fossil hunting trip, so I have been a bit out of touch.

In my absence, Senior Director Ken Gagner filled in for me at the general meeting. Ken provided the presentation, featuring local rock-hounding opportunities, supplemented by recommendations from other members. He reported that we acquired several new members, both adults and juniors.

The two field trips earlier in June were well attended: the thunder egg site on the summit of CA 46, west of Paso Robles, and the Pedotti ranch for all sorts of rocks, jaspers, agates, and the like.

This month's general meeting is on Monday, July 20th at the Templeton Community Center. In July each year, we celebrate the birthday of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds with an ice cream social. Founded in 1991, this will be the club's 36th birthday! We celebrate with cake and ice cream provided by the club.

There will be no formal presentation this month as the purpose of the meeting is to be "social!" Bring your latest finds and share them with your fellow rockhounds. I know I will be bringing some of the goodies I found last month during my fossil-hunting adventures!

During the meeting, we will present the annual "Founder's Award" to a member deemed worthy of recognition for their selfless contributions to the club. The awardee is selected by the previous year's recipient(s), Kathy and James Behrmann, not by the board of directors.

Lastly, we will be announcing the Santa Lucia "Rockhound of the Year." This honor is selected by the board of directors and is submitted to the California Federation of Mineralogical Society's (<https://cfmsinc.org>) annual competition.

So be there on July 20th to enjoy the festivities!

Rock on!

Ted Gray

El Presidente

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

2026 Board Members & Committee Chairs

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tngray@nautiloid.net
805-801-0007

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kimnoyes@gmail.com
and
Heidi Adams
714-309-1238
mrs.cpt.adams@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

July Board Meeting

Monday, July 6th, Templeton Community Center,
7 p.m.

July Junior Rockhound Meeting

The July Junior Rockhounds Meeting will
be held Monday, July 20th at 6 p.m. at the Templeton
Community Center.

July General Meeting

The July General Meeting will be held Monday, July
20th at the Templeton Community Center at 7 p.m.



Photo on this page:

Samples from Ken Gagner's
presentation

June Presentation: Local Rockhounding

Beth Walls, SLR

At our recent club meeting, members enjoyed Ken Gagner's informative presentation highlighting some of the best rockhounding locations along California's Central Coast and nearby regions.

Whether you're a seasoned collector or just beginning your rockhounding journey, his presentation offered plenty of ideas for future adventures and reminded everyone that amazing specimens can often be found close to home.

The presentation began with local beaches, each known for its own unique geological treasures.

Members learned that Jalama Beach is an excellent place to search for rhyolite, jasper, chert, agate, travertine, and even fossil whale bone.

Avila Beach was highlighted as the local favorite for the mysterious material affectionately known as "Deedeeite," while Montaña de Oro and Morro Bay Dog Beach continue to attract collectors searching for colorful jasper, chert, and agates.

Traveling north along the coast, attendees discovered that Cayucos is known for mushroom rhyolite and biconoid fragments, while Moonstone Beach in Cambria offers opportunities

to collect beautiful agates, chalcedony, jasper, and chert.

The presentation also touched on the legendary collecting areas around Big Sur, famous worldwide for its prized Big Sur jade, along with rhodonite and serpentine.

The discussion then moved inland, showcasing several lesser-known collecting areas. Rockhounds learned about Nipomo Mesa, where Nipomo agates and marine fossils can be found, and See Canyon and the Irish Hills, known for brecciated jasper, chert, and agates.

Other highlighted destinations included Cuesta Ridge for calcite and druzy quartz, Atascadero for petrified whale bone and fossils, and the 46 West Summit, where collectors may find geodes, mushroom rhyolite, and biconoids.

For those looking to venture a little farther from home, the presentation featured two classic California destinations. Shark Tooth Hill near Bakersfield remains one of the state's premier fossil collecting sites, while the Clear Creek Management Area offers an impressive variety of minerals, including jade, garnets, plasma agate, actinolite, serpentine, magnesite nodules, and amethyst.



Photos on this page:

Samples from Ken Gagner's presentation

Photo by Beth Walls

June Presentation (continued)

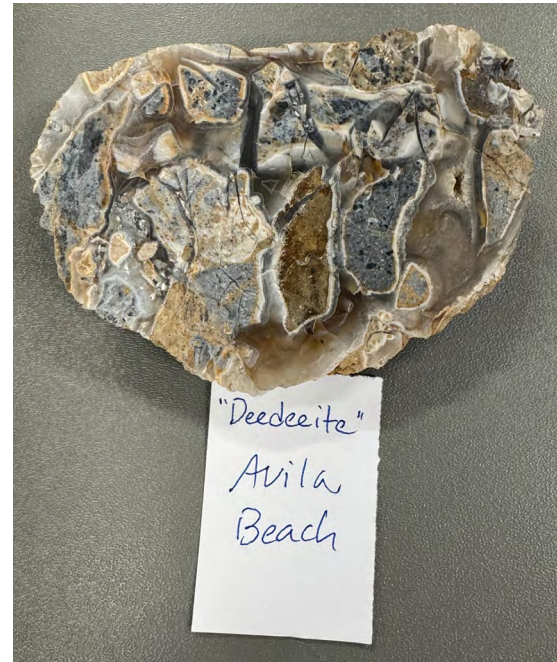
Members were also reminded that access regulations and collecting restrictions can change, so it's always important to check current land management rules before planning a trip.

Perhaps one of the most valuable takeaways from the presentation was that rockhounding opportunities extend beyond beaches and mountains. Local antique stores, thrift shops, yard sales, and estate sales can also yield fascinating mineral specimens, fossils, and lapidary treasures waiting for a new home.

The presentation inspired many members to start planning their next collecting adventure.

With so many outstanding locations just a short drive away, our region truly offers something for every rockhound. Whether you're searching for colorful agates, ancient fossils, sparkling quartz, or your very first piece of jade, the next great discovery may be closer than you think.

Happy hunting, and remember to collect responsibly, respect private property, and leave each collecting site as beautiful as you found it!



Photos on this page:
Samples from Ken Gagner's presentation



May General Meeting Highlights

Right: Meeting attendees getting a closer look at the specimens Ernie shared during Show & Tell.

Below: Show & Tell about rocks found at a local rockhounding site.



Above: Meeting attendees getting a closer look at the specimens Ken shared during his presentation.

Below: Senior Director Ken Gagner leading the meeting.



Left: Ernie Perlich dropping the mic.

Photos by Kim Noyes
and Beth Walls

May General Meeting Highlights (continued)

Right: Caleb & Chelsea Willis with the club's silent auction.



Left: Michelle Gagner with the drawing prizes.



Below: Attendees choose their silent auction bids carefully.



Below: Club secretary Adriana Saldana showing off her drawing wins, the highlight of which were TWO rare Felix Mine fluorites.



Photos by Kim Noyes and Beth Walls

Junior Rockhound Rock Star Awards

Beth Walls, SLR

Hard work, curiosity, and enthusiasm paid off as Remy, Raine, and Laine earned the prestigious AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Rock Star Award!

They have completed all 20 badges in the American Federation of Mineralogical Society (AFMS) Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program. They were awarded with their own unique Rock Star plaque and an AFMS pin.

Since joining the Santa Lucia Rockhounds, they've all been active members of the club, and have also volunteered at the club's annual rock and gem show.

The Rock Star Award recognizes young rockhounds who go above and beyond in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program. Rather than focusing on a single activity, the award celebrates well-rounded participation, encouraging Juniors to explore many different areas of geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, collecting, conservation, and earth science.



Earning this recognition demonstrates perseverance, a willingness to learn, and a genuine passion for the fascinating world beneath our feet.

Our club is incredibly proud of these outstanding Juniors for their commitment and perseverance.

Their excitement for learning reminds us that every expert geologist, mineral collector, and lapidary artist began by asking simple questions and picking up interesting rocks.



Photos of the Junior Rock Stars with Mary Beatty, VP of Education, by Beth Walls

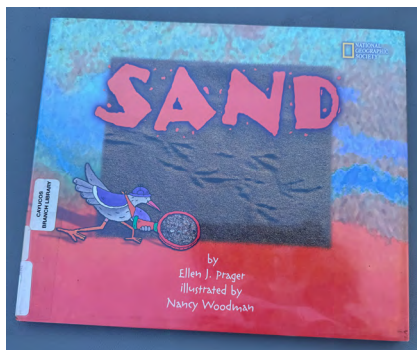
June Junior Rockhounds: Miniatures

Beth Walls, SLR

At our recent Junior Rockhounds meeting, members became geological detectives as they worked toward earning their AFMS Future Rockhounds of America "The World in Miniature" badge. Instead of searching for large crystals or colorful gemstones, they explored the fascinating world hidden in tiny grains of sand.

Armed with magnifying glasses and plenty of curiosity, the Juniors carefully examined sand particles to determine the size, shape, and color of them.

The activity taught an important lesson: size doesn't determine significance. Every grain tells a story about the rocks it came from and the natural forces that carried it. Rivers, oceans, glaciers, and wind slowly break down larger rocks into tiny pieces,



creating unique mixtures of minerals that can even help geologists understand the history of an area. Looking through a magnifier, the Juniors discovered that each grain has its own shape, color, and texture, making every sample as unique as a fingerprint.

The AFMS "World in Miniature" badge encourages young rockhounds to appreciate the remarkable details found in microscopic and thumbnail-sized



June Junior Rockhounds (continued)



specimens. Activities include collecting and classifying sand, preparing miniature mineral collections, and learning proper techniques for observing and storing these tiny geological wonders. Juniors earn the badge by completing three of the available activities.

By the end of the meeting, our Junior Rockhounds had gained a whole new appreciation for something most people walk across every day without a second thought. They discovered that even the smallest grains can reveal an incredible world of geology, proving that sometimes the biggest adventures come in the tiniest packages.



Photos by Beth Walls

Rockonteur - July 2026

2026 Rock and Gem Shows

Mark your calendars!

July 31, August 1-2, 2026

Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, 525 North Thompson Avenue, Nipomo, California 93444

Hours: Friday & Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

Orcutt Mineral Society's 58th Rock & Gem Show

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

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

August 1-2, 2026

Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society

Roebbelen Event Center within @ the Grounds, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA 95678

Hours: Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

Annual show; Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society. \$10, Kids - 12 and under Free - Venue Parking fee; It's the Rock Rollers 63rd annual big show. Over 80 vendors, inside/out, featuring: Crystals, Fossils, Minerals from around the world, Jewelry, Amethyst, Gemstones, Opal, Beads, Meteorites, Demo's, Mineral ID, Rock Auctions, Special area for Kids. NorCal's largest show, contact Gloria P Marie, (916) 216-1114; Email: gloriarosevilleroockrollers@gmail.com

Website: rockrollers.com

August 15-16, 2026

Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F Street, Tehachapi, CA

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM,

Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Free; Gem, mineral, and jewelry show with amazing vendors, family activities, opals and fine stones.

Handmade jewelry. Raffles, geodes and so much more; contact Ronald

Myrick, (661) 972-1117; Email:

travis462@outlook.com

Website: tvqms.net

August 22-23, 2026

Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM,

Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

9,000 square feet of faceted stones, handmade jewelry, cabs, lapidary rough, minerals, slabs and more.

Admission \$5.0, under 12 Free. Free parking;.

Contact: PGMCSshow@gmail.com,

Vendors Contact: tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026

CFMS Show

Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society

Grand Sierra Resort, Silver State Pavilion, 2500 East 2nd Street, Reno, Nevada 89595

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@](mailto:showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org)

renogemandmineralsociety.org

Website: renogms.org

Sept 19-20, 2026

Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W.

Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007

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

September 19-20, 2026

Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society

Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St., Chico CA 95928

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM,

Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Feather River Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show. Admission is \$6 for adults, free for 16 and under. Free Parking courtesy of the Feather Lapidary & Mineral Society

Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org

Website: [https://www.](https://www.featherriverrocks.org/show-2/)

featherriverrocks.org/show-2/

September 19-20, 2026

Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004

Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Website: <http://cvgms.rock>

September 26-27, 2026

San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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 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/

Oct 3-4, 2026

Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem and Mineral Society

Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890

Briggs St., Anderson, CA 96007

Hours: Saturday 9-5; Sunday 9-4

70th Annual Gem Show. Free

to all; 70th Annual Gem Show.

Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils,

Gemstones, Silent Auction,

Exhibits, Raffle, Kids Booth.

Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.

com, (530) 722-7133

Website: shastagemandmineral.org

October 10-11, 2026

Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology

Society & Sequoia Gem and

Mineral Society

Community Activities Building,
1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City,
CA 94061

Hours: 10am - 5pm

Contact: [impresciacconstruction@
gmail.com](mailto:impresciacconstruction@gmail.com) / 650-575-3144

Website: pggs.org/

sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

Oct 17, 2026

West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

First United Methodist Church,
22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA
91307

Hours: Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

27th Annual Gem Show

Contact: [barnettcelia53@gmail.
com](mailto:barnettcelia53@gmail.com)

Website: rockchippers.org

October 17-18, 2026

Santa Rosa, CA

**Santa Rosa Mineral and Gem
Society**

Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial
Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa

Rosa, CA

Hours: Saturday 10am - 6pm

Sunday 10am - 5pm

Adults \$8, Kids under 12 Free, Free
Parking; 49th annual show. There
are over 35 vendors selling gems,
minerals, jewelry, lapidary rough,
meteorites and other rock-related
items. Educational displays, raffle,
mineral exhibits, silent auctions,
and lapidary demonstrations.
Kid's Corner with Parent & Me
activities and treasure hunt.

Food truck vendors are on-site;
contact Victoria Commons; Email:
agatejasper221@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.srmgs.org>



**58TH
ANNUAL**

**ORCUTT
MINERAL
SOCIETY**

**ROCK
&
GEM
SHOW**



July 31st

10am to 5 pm

August 1st

10am to 5 pm

August 2nd

10am to 4 pm

OVER 60 DEALERS

DISPLAYS

LAPIDARY ARTS

DEMONSTRATIONS

RAFFLE ON SUNDAY

KID'S ACTIVITIES

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

**NIPOMO HIGH SCHOOL
525 N. THOMPSON AVE
NIPOMO, CA 93444**

omsrockandgemshow.org



Oct 24-25, 2026

Orange, CA

American Opal Society

Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S.

Flower Street, Orange, CA 92868

Hours: Sat 10am-6pm; Sun

10am-5pm

Come visit our 55th Annual Opal,
Gem & Jewelry Show!

Opal and gem dealers from
around the USA and beyond.

Huge drawing! GRAND PRIZE:

custom design by Stan McCall

Admission \$5 Adults; Students

with ID and Children under 15

FREE

FREE Parking

Contact: info@opalsociety.org

(714) 501-9959

Website: opalsociety.org

Oct 24-25, 2026

Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society

6151 H. Street, Sacramento CA

95819

Hours: Sat 10am - 5pm; Sun

10am - 4pm

It's our 90th Anniversary show!

Celebrate with us at Sacramento

Mineral Society's Gem, Mineral,

& Jewelry Show. This year will

be bigger & better than ever!

Come see our Science Museum,

Gem Trees, Live demos, Displays,

Raffles, Rare Specimens, Fossils &

more!

Get \$1 off with the flyer below!

Facebook Event Info

Contact: gemshow@

sacgemshow.com, (916) 662-

5819

Website: sacgemshow.com

Nov 7-8, 2026

San Diego, CA

Liberty Station Conference

San Diego Mineral & Gem

Society

Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San

Diego, CA 92106

Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4

Gem Diego Show: Free

Admission & Parking. Eateries

next door. Free Gem ID,

28 dealers, 20+ exhibits,

demonstrations, Kid's zone,

gems, minerals, crystals, fossils,
rough, cut stones, books, jewelry,
slabs, door prizes & grand prize
raffle (do not have to be there to
win), and plenty more! Trained
Service Animals Only!
Contact: benton.luannz@gmail.com

November 14-15, 2026

Concord, CA

**Contra Costa Mineral and Gem
Society**

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton

Road, Concord, CA

Hours: Saturday 10am - 5pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Admission \$10 Kids under 12

free, Senior discount; Tickets

can be purchased online. Over

30 vendors - Rocks, minerals,

fossils, gemstones, silent auction,

rocks by the bucket, professional

demonstrators, rock ID with

experts, display cases, Spin the

Wheel, rock painting, treasure

box dig, rock monster, door prizes

& raffle ; contact Mike Hopkins,

(925) 570-4719; Email: show@

ccmgclub.com

Check out this amazing

[Rock & Mineral](#)

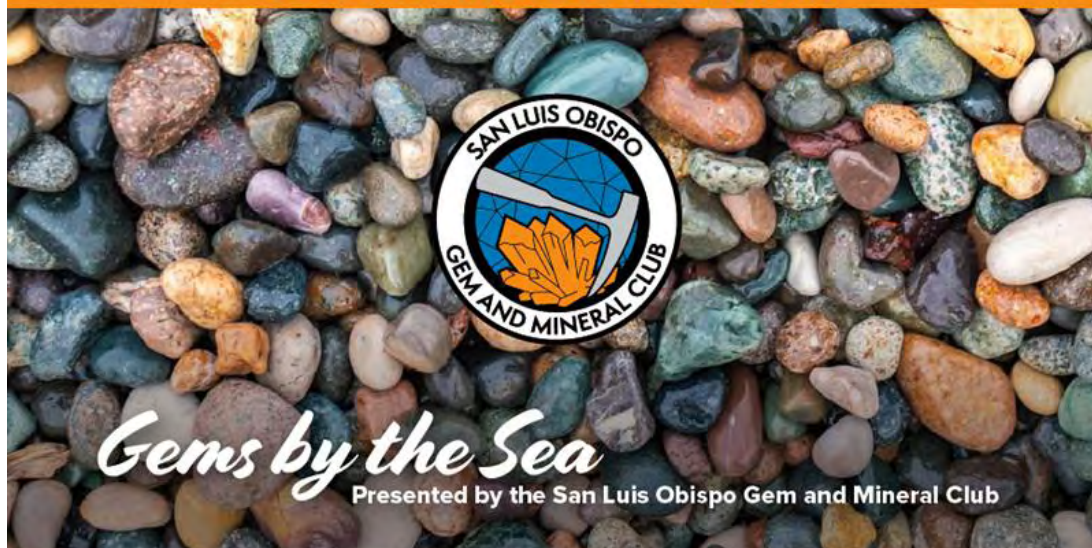
[Informational Directory](#)

from the Tehachapi Valley

Gem & Mineral Society



GEM & MINERAL SHOW



Saturday & Sunday, September 26th and 27th, 2026 • 10 AM to 5 PM

Alex Madonna Expo Center • 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

June Field Trip to Pedotti Ranch

Kim Noyes, SLR

Saturday, June 13, 2026, the San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club and Santa Lucia Rockhounds of North San Luis Obispo County conducted a joint field trip to the Pedotti Ranch up San Simeon Creek.

This adventure was co-directed by SLOGMC President Sean Bass and myself.

NOTE: this is on private property with permission. Each adult member signed a waiver and paid a modest fee to collect. DO NOT come here by yourself and collect and not expect to be met by an armed Pedotti or employee or a SLO Co. Sheriff deputy out of Cambria substation.

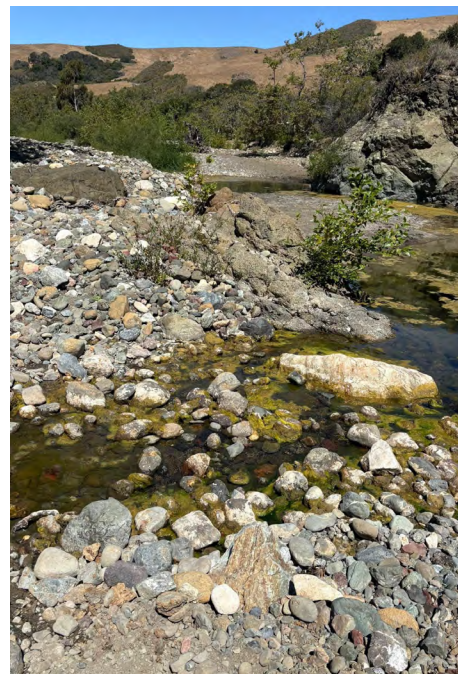
About two-dozen club members participated and a great time was had by all. Me being me and missing a lot of rockhounding the past year-and-a-half, I kinda needed to be alone and so I was.

Sean being a most excellent co-director allowed me to go off by myself the first half of the field trip, parking at the opposite end of the field trip collecting zone, and work my way down-stream until I met up with the leading cluster of collectors wending their way upstream.

Over the course of the morning I saw many cool cobbles and stones (pictured) and kept a few.



Brecciated Jasper with quartz and agate in-fill



Pedotti Ranch Field Trip (continued)



Much Brecciated Jasper with quartz and agate in-fill were found on this trip!

Water in the creek helped the rockhounds to see a preview of exactly what the stones would look like if they were cut or polished.

Photos by Kim Noyes



CFMS - Cooperative Field Trip Chairman Association

Rick Hicks, CFMS Representative

Santa Lucia Rockhounds is now a member of the Cooperative Field Trip Chairmen Association's <https://www.co-opfieldtrips.com/>

We can now attend Co-Op field trips. There are some basic rules.

Conditions of Attending Trip:

1. All attendees must agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rock hounding.

2. Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information. Remember to wear your name badge and sign in and out with the field trip leader (unless specified by Leader).

3. A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.

4. If you are NOT a member of a CLUB/SOCIETY that belongs to the California Federation Mineralogical Society (CMFS), you must contact the FT leader before the field trip regarding insurance requirements

This is the next upcoming Fieldtrip. A "CO-OP MEMBER" Field Trip to Central Oregon

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Obsidian, limb casts, jasper, petrified wood, geodes & thunderegg

WHEN – June 13 - June 21st, 2026
SPONSOR CLUB – Mother Lode Mineral Society & Calaveras Gem & Mineral

Contact the Co-op or sponsoring club field trip leader for updates and further information. Click on About tab above for club contact information. I also have contact information available.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

June 13-Arrival day, make plans

June 14-17 Group choice

Prineville club's daily outings-Go to the Prineville Club's Facebook page for more info on each field trip. \$10 club membership required but is good for the whole year.

Either Kevin or I will be going on the field trips but the club field trip leaders will be in charge and you must check in and out with them.

[Prineville Rockhound Powwow Show](#)

June 18- Friends Ranch-Private property dig for t-eggs, and/or Hampton Butte Petrified wood and jasper.

We will be attending the Central Oregon Rock Collectors (CORC) monthly meeting. Guests invited.

June 19-Fallen Tree-T-egg claim not open to public. Agate centers and /or White Fir- Club claim T-eggs

June 20-Friends Ranch-Private property dig for t-eggs and/or Bear Creek-Petrified wood,
June 21-Fallen Tree-T-egg claim not open to public.

Agate centers and /or Congleton Hollow-Petrified wood and limb casts.

NOTE: I have to check out early this morning so I suggest you stay in a motel close to the fairgrounds or dig site. Also see Additional Opportunity below.

June-18-21 Prineville show- No charge to visit the show. Rocks cost up to \$1,000. LOL, ask me how I know.

June 20 For those staying at Janet's house pack up and leave. Unfortunately, I didn't reserve the house soon enough to be able to stay for the entire show. I have to be out early Sunday morning so I'm asking people to leave or at least pack up on Saturday as I will need time to clean up and lock up. But you can still attend the field trips or show.

June 20-21-Additional Opportunity: [Oregon Sunstone Extravaganza!](#) Spectrum Sunstone Mine/Chris Rose/Neukomm's Rock Shop is having a FREE dig Saturday 6/21 and reduced price of \$20 for adults on Sunday June 21.

There will also be FREE belt runs, rock swap FREE camping and flush toilets. You must be a member of the [Oregon Sunstone Facebook group](#) and indicate you are attending.

CFMS - July Updates

**Rick Hicks, CFMS
Representative**

Need for Youth Judges!

Judges for our CFMS Junior Achievement Awards contest. Rules call for members from three different CFMS clubs to serve as judges so as to avoid bias in evaluating applicants.

One of this year's applicants is from my own Ventura club, so I need to recuse myself. Kids who have entered this year hail from the Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Lapidary Society, and Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, so I need three judges who are not members of these clubs.

Can you help? Please?

These awards acknowledge kids in two age groups: under 12 and 12-to-18. Kids submit applications and winners earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100.

This year, we have four applicants, two in each age group. And yet, despite asking each month for four months now, we still have no judges.

I try to be an optimist. But my optimism is fading because it's starting to seem like no one cares. Please, prove me wrong.

The judging sheet is short and straightforward, so the task is not a huge one. You should be able to complete it in one quick sit-down session.

This year's CFMS Convention won't take place until the end of September, you'll be given ample time for judging. Let's all join together to recognize the outstanding kids within our ranks! Please: take time to contact me right now (as in, this very moment) to volunteer your help: jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

I still believe in heroes, and I know you're out there. Let the four kids who have taken the time and effort to support their clubs know that their efforts are valued and will be honored.

CFMS Show & Convention in Reno, September 18-20, 2026

In conjunction with
Reno Gem & Mineral Society's
"Jackpot of Gems" Show

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Friday & Saturday - Show Open:
10:00 AM-7:00 PM
Sunday - Show Open: 10:00 AM-
5:00pm

Opportunities for members to participate. There's lots of good rock hounding nearby too. It's not too soon to start planning your competitive and non-competitive exhibits.

Contact Rick Hicks
He will have copies of the forms and more information at the next meeting.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3).

Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return.

If a personal donation is \$250 or more, a letter attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the following:
CFMS Scholarship Fund
CFMS Endowment Fund
CFMS General Fund
Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
AFMS Scholarship Foundation
AFMS Endowment Fund
Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
Facilities Development Fund

Your donations should be sent to: Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657 Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment.

Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.



<https://cfmsinc.org/>

2026 CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

“Jackpot of Gems”



September 18, 19 & 20, 2026
(Fri./Sat., 10am–7pm; Sun., 10am–5pm)
Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 S. Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

Exhibit Entry Deadline: August 1, 2026

SETUP: All entries must be ready for judging by close of set-up time 8 pm, Thursday, September 17, 2026. Set up time will be Thursday, September 17, 2026 from Noon to 6:00pm

CASES: Cases will be assigned space on tables approximately 30 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor must supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables (approximately 10 feet).

Please complete all information on the entry form and this certification form and mail to the Competitive Exhibits Registrar for acceptance and acknowledgement – ***an email copy may be sent, but a hard copy with all signatures is required for entry.*** Mail to:

Pat LaRue, Competitive Exhibit Registrar
P.O. Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657
bplarue@earthlink.net

Address questions to **Colleen McGann, Rules Chair, 189 El Solvo, Avenue #2, Ben Lomond, CA 95005, Kmcgann0009@gmail.com**. There are no separate application forms for CFMS Supplementary Competition. Fill out this form for the competition you wish to enter. **You must fill out a separate application for each entry.**

Refer to AFMS Rules Updated to 2024. Download the rules from: www.amfed.org Basic info on CFMS Supplemental Trophies may be obtained from the CFMS website, www.cfmsinc.org (Supplementary Rules). If you are uncertain as to the class or group you should enter or for clarification of rules, contact Colleen McGann: Kmcgann0009@gmail.com , (831) 212-1951.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, AFMS, & the host society will not be liable to any exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application/certification form for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

SIGNATURE_____

Print name_____ **Date**_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SOCIETY & REGION _____

JUNIOR ONLY: DATE OF BIRTH _____

DISPLAY DESCRIPTION _____

EXHIBITOR GROUP: MASTER _____ ADVANCED _____ NOVICE _____ JUNIOR _____
SOCIETY _____ JUNIOR SOCIETY _____

EXHIBIT DIVISION _____ EXHIBIT CLASS _____

This display is to be entered in: CFMS _____ CFMS Supplemental _____

A limited number of cases are available for loan at a \$15 fee if you lack your own case.

Using your own case? _____ If yes, external dimensions in inches: Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

Do you need a case? _____ (Rental cases may vary slightly, with an inside bottom approx. 46" x 22")

If you wish to be considered for a CFMS SUPPLEMENTAL TROPHY, please note which one/s here:

Have you judged at annual CFMS shows? _____ If so, what categories? _____

Would you like to volunteer as a clerk? _____ Would you like to volunteer as a judge-in-training? _____

Are you a certified AFMS Judge cardholder? _____ If so, what categories? _____

CERTIFICATION FOR EXHIBITORS

I hereby certify all material in competition by me is my own personal property. If a Society Exhibit, all material belongs to members of the Society. All work, except minor findings or where otherwise allowed by the rules, was completed by me. **I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.**

Exhibitor's Signature _____

Print name _____

Exhibitor's Society & Region _____

OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION: I certify, as an officer of the above named society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to AFMS Rules.

Signature _____ Title _____

If certification is sent by email, we need the officer's email _____

Date _____

Both pages must be sent to Competitive Exhibit Registrar. Be sure to make a copy for your files.

By attending this activity I give consent for CFMS to make photographs, videotapes, films or other likenesses of me. I hereby grant to sponsor unrestricted right to copyright any of the above mentioned materials containing images of me as well as the unrestricted right to use and reuse them, with their caption information, in whole or in part. These rights include but not limited to the right to publish, copy, distribute, alter, license and publicly display these materials and images for editorial, trade, marketing and/or advertising purposes. I also grant CFMS and its licensees the unrestricted right to use and disclose my name in connection with use of the above material.



2026 CFMS CONVENTION

In conjunction with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems" Show
September 18, 19 & 20, 2026

(Friday & Saturday 10am-7pm; Sunday 10am-5pm)

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

Exhibit Entry Deadline: August 1, 2026

SET-UP: Exhibits must be installed between Noon and 6 PM on Thursday, September 17, 2026

CASES: Cases will be assigned space on tables approximately 30 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor must supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables (approximately 10 feet).

Please complete all information on the entry form and mail to the Non-Competitive Exhibit Chair for acceptance and acknowledgement – **an email copy may be sent.** Mail to:

Kelly Plumb Non-Competitive Exhibit Chair, c/o Reno Gem & Mineral Society

480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV 89431

email: kellyplumb900@yahoo.com Phone: 510-693-9075

If entering more than one exhibit, you must fill out a separate application for each exhibit.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Reno Gem & Mineral Society will not be liable to any exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application/certification form for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

SIGNATURE _____

Print name _____ **Date** _____
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

SOCIETY & REGIONAL FEDERATION _____

DISPLAY DESCRIPTION _____

A limited number of cases are available for loan at a \$15 fee if you lack your own case.

Using your own case? ____ If yes, external dimensions in inches: Width ____ Height ____ Depth ____

Do you need a case? ____ (2'x4' rental cases may vary slightly)

The Geology and Chemistry of Fireworks

Beth Walls, SLR

Fireworks are a brilliant display of color, light, and sound, captivating audiences around the world during celebrations and special events. While they are often appreciated for their beauty and spectacle, the science behind fireworks is equally fascinating. This article delves into the geology and chemistry that make fireworks possible, exploring the minerals, metals, and chemical reactions involved in creating these dazzling pyrotechnic displays.

Geology: The Raw Materials of Fireworks

At the heart of fireworks are

minerals and metals that are sourced from the Earth's crust. The geology of fireworks begins with the extraction of these raw materials:

1. Barium (Ba)

- Source: Barium is commonly found in the mineral barite (barium sulfate, BaSO_4).
- Use in Fireworks: Barium compounds are used to create green colors in fireworks. They also act as stabilizers for other volatile elements.

2. Strontium (Sr)

- Source: Strontium is often derived from the mineral celestite (strontium sulfate, SrSO_4).
- Use in Fireworks: Strontium compounds produce bright

red colors. Strontium carbonate (SrCO_3) is particularly popular for this purpose.

3. Calcium (Ca)

- Source: Calcium is abundant in minerals such as limestone (calcium carbonate, CaCO_3) and gypsum (calcium sulfate, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$).
- Use in Fireworks: Calcium compounds, such as calcium chloride (CaCl_2), are used to deepen colors and create orange hues.

4. Magnesium (Mg)

- Source: Magnesium is found in minerals like magnesite (magnesium carbonate, MgCO_3) and dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate,



Geology and Chemistry of Fireworks (*continued*)

$\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$).

- Use in Fireworks: Magnesium is a key component in creating bright, white sparks due to its intense burning properties.

5. Aluminum (Al)

- Source: Aluminum is primarily extracted from bauxite ore (hydrated aluminum oxide).

- Use in Fireworks: Aluminum powder is used to produce silver and white flames and sparks. It is also an important component of flash powder, which creates loud bangs and flashes.

6. Copper (Cu)

- Source: Copper is found in minerals such as chalcopyrite (copper iron sulfide, CuFeS_2) and malachite (copper carbonate hydroxide, $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$).

- Use in Fireworks: Copper compounds, particularly copper chloride (CuCl_2), are used to create blue colors in fireworks.

Chemistry: The Reactions Behind the Explosions

The dazzling effects of fireworks are the result of carefully controlled chemical reactions. Here's how chemistry comes into play:

1. Oxidizers

- Function: Provide oxygen to support the combustion of the fuel.

- Common Compounds: Potassium nitrate (KNO_3), potassium perchlorate (KClO_4), and ammonium perchlorate (NH_4ClO_4).

2. Reducing Agents

- Function: Burn to produce

hot gases and fuel the explosion.

- Common Compounds: Sulfur (S) and charcoal (carbon, C).

3. Binders

- Function: Hold the mixture together and ensure it burns at a controlled rate.

- Common Compounds: Dextrin (a type of starch) and other organic compounds.

4. Coloring Agents

- Function: Produce the vibrant colors seen in fireworks.

- Common Elements and Compounds:

- Strontium salts (red)
- Barium salts (green)
- Sodium salts (yellow)
- Copper salts (blue)
- Calcium salts (orange)
- Aluminum, magnesium, and titanium metals (white and silver)

5. Stabilizers

- Function: Prevent premature combustion and ensure safety during handling and storage.

- Common Compounds: Various stabilizing agents are used depending on the specific composition of the fireworks.

The Pyrotechnic Reaction

When a firework is ignited, a series of chemical reactions occur in rapid succession:

1. Ignition

- The fuse is lit, providing initial heat to start the reaction.

2. Decomposition of Oxidizers

- The oxidizing agents decompose, releasing oxygen.

3. Combustion

- The reducing agents burn in the presence of oxygen, producing heat, light, and expanding gases.

4. Excitation of Metal Ions

- The heat causes metal salts to vaporize, and their electrons become excited. When these electrons return to their ground state, they release energy in the form of light, producing the colors observed in the explosion.

5. Sound Production

- The rapid expansion of gases generates pressure waves, resulting in the characteristic bangs and booms of fireworks.

Review of Firework Colors

These colors come from single minerals and metals:

- Blue is provided by copper (Cu) from chalcopyrite.
- Green is provided by barium (Ba) from barite.
- Red is provided by strontium (Sr) from celestite.
- Yellow is provided by sodium (Na) from halite (rock salt).

These colors are made by mixing minerals and metals:

- Orange = strontium (Sr) + halite (Na)
- Lavender = strontium (Sr) + copper (Cu)
- Silver = titanium (Ti) + zirconium (Zr) + magnesium (Mg)

The geology and chemistry of fireworks showcase the intricate interplay between natural resources and scientific principles. By harnessing the properties of various minerals and metals, and understanding the chemical reactions involved, pyrotechnicians can create the breathtaking displays that light up our skies.

July Birthstone: Ruby

Beth Walls, SLR

July's birthstone, the radiant ruby, is a gemstone synonymous with passion, love, and power. Known for its captivating red color and historical significance, the ruby has been a favorite among royalty and gem enthusiasts for centuries.

Color and Quality:

Rubies are part of the corundum family of minerals, sharing this category with sapphires. What distinguishes rubies from sapphires is their vibrant red color, caused by the presence of chromium. The most sought-after rubies display a deep, blood-red hue known as "pigeon's blood," a term used in the gem trade to describe the most valuable and intense red color.

Clarity and Cut:

High-quality rubies are typically clear with few inclusions. However, it's common to find inclusions in natural rubies, which can actually enhance their authenticity and value. The cut of a ruby is crucial, as it enhances the stone's color and brilliance. Rubies are often cut in a cushion or oval shape to maximize their fiery appearance.

Historical Symbolism:

Rubies have a rich history and have been revered in many cultures as a symbol of power and protection. In ancient India, they were referred to as the "king of gemstones" and were believed to protect their wearer from harm. In medieval Europe, rubies were thought to bring good health, wisdom, and success in love.

Modern Significance:

Today, rubies continue to be associated with love, passion, and vitality. They are often given as



Left: Polished Ruby

Right: Rough Ruby

Source: <https://www.gia.edu/ruby/gem-overview>

gifts to signify deep emotions and strong connections. The fiery red color of the ruby is thought to inspire courage and confidence, making it a popular choice for engagement rings and anniversary gifts.

Royalty and Legend:

Throughout history, rubies have adorned the crowns and jewelry of royalty. They were prized by ancient Burmese warriors who believed that rubies made them invincible in battle. The famous British Imperial State Crown contains a notable ruby, the Black Prince's Ruby, which is actually a large spinel but historically referred to as a ruby.

Trade and Value:

Rubies have always been highly valued and traded across civilizations. The Mogok Valley in Myanmar

(formerly Burma) is known for producing some of the finest rubies in the world. Today, rubies from this region are still considered some of the most valuable due to their superior color and quality.

Care and Maintenance

Durability:

Rubies are one of the hardest gemstones, second only to diamonds on the Mohs scale of hardness. This makes them durable and suitable for everyday wear. However, care should be taken to avoid exposure to harsh chemicals and extreme temperatures.

Cleaning:

To maintain the brilliance of a ruby, it's recommended to clean it with warm soapy water and a soft brush. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are generally safe for rubies, but it's always best to consult with a professional jeweler if you're unsure.

The ruby, with its rich color, historical significance, and symbolic meaning, stands out as one of the most beloved gemstones. Whether set in a stunning piece of jewelry or given as a heartfelt gift, rubies continue to captivate and inspire with their fiery elegance and timeless beauty.



The 5.00 ct oval ruby in this designer ring is set in platinum with 18k rose gold, surrounded by halos of round rubies and diamonds. Courtesy: Omi Privé Source: <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/july-birthstones>

Always Remember



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/carlsonsrockworld>

The Santa Lucia Rockhounds (SLR)

is a non-profit public benefit corporation with the specific purpose to promote the study of mineralogy, including (but not limited to) the fields of lapidary, metal working, jewelry design and fabrication, geology and conducts field trips for collecting and education.

We encourage learning and good citizenship in a congenial atmosphere. We respect both private and public property, and we strive to protect natural resources.

The Junior Rockhound meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. with the general club meeting starting at 7p.m. All meetings are at the Templeton Community Center.

We are a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and affiliated with the American Federation on Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Inc. is also a member of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA).

Annual dues are \$30 for the first adult plus \$10 per additional member of the same household. Annual dues are payable between August 1 and the third Monday of December, in person at club meetings or by mail to P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

The Rockonteur is the official monthly newsletter of the SLR and an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of SLR and of interests to its members.

Circulation of the Rockonteur is approximately 120 copies per issue.

Member submissions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the SLR.

Submissions may be edited as needed without consent. The deadline is the 20th of the month to be included in the next month's publication. Early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged.

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Beth Walls, bethwalls31@gmail.com
Please submit articles for the Rockonteur via email before the 15th of the month to be featured the following month.

Website: www.slrockhounds.org
Club Email: slrockhounds@gmail.com