



Rockonteur

The Monthly Newsletter of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds

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P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447



President's Message

Greetings Rockhounds,

We are now over halfway through 2026; how time flies. Hopefully, each of you is having fun and has had an opportunity to get out for some summertime rockhounding. After all, that's what our club is all about!

I was able to participate in the July field trip to the thunder egg site on the summit of CA 46, led by our distinguished trip leader, Kim Noyes, and I managed to find my first thunder egg (and a few more)! You guys might make a rock hound out of this old fossil yet!

If you missed it, during our July meeting, we celebrated the birthday of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds with an ice cream social. Founded in 1991, this was the club's 36th birthday!

The highlight of the celebration was the pleasure of honoring our long-time member and tireless volunteer, Caleb Willis, as the club's "Rockhound of the Year". Independently, Caleb was also chosen by last year's "Founder's Award" winners, Kathy and James Behrmann, to receive the 2026 "Founder's Award". Congratulations to Caleb on the "double!"

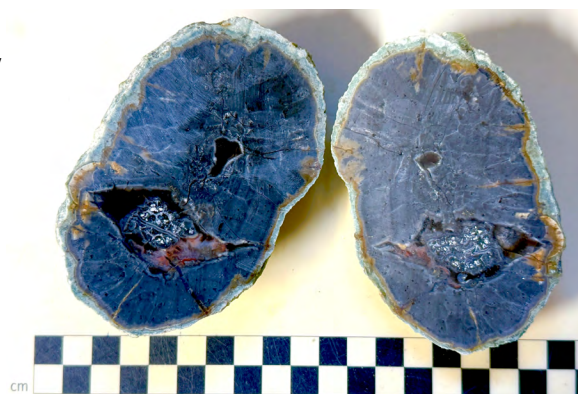
You see Caleb at every meeting, conducting the Silent Auction, but he contributes so much more to the club's successful operation. Among those contributions, he was a former board member, he is instrumental in organizing and maintaining the club

storage container, and he is an essential part of the Rock Show Committee, designing and coordinating the layout of the annual Rock Show. Also, with his side hustle, "Freeform Lapidary, Caleb also cuts a mean cabochon! Check out his stuff on Facebook and Instagram!

This month's general meeting is on Monday, August 17th at the Templeton Community Center at 7 PM. The highlight of the meeting will be a presentation given by our own Bruce Mundt, who will share his knowledge of special rocks associated with an ancient geological event that formed the rocks known as the "Banded Iron Formation". You won't want to miss this one!

So be there on August 17th to enjoy the show and hang with your fellow rockhounds.

Rock on!
Ted Gray
El Presidente
Santa Lucia Rockhounds



My first Thunder Egg, from Hwy 46 Summit, unpolished, Photo by Ted Gray

2026 Board Members & Committee Chairs

Board Members

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tngray@nautiloid.net
805-801-0007

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805-234-5475

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

Upcoming Events

August Board Meeting

Monday, August 3rd, Templeton Community Center
at 7 p.m.

August Junior Rockhound Meeting

The August Junior Rockhounds Meeting will
be held Monday, August 17th at 6 p.m. at the
Templeton Community Center.

August Field Trip

A field trip to Ralph Bishop's private residence
museum will be held on August 22nd. Bring cash if
you'd like to make any purchases of his rocks!

August General Meeting

The August General Meeting will be held Monday,
August 17th at the Templeton Community Center at
7 p.m.

Bruce Mundt will present the amazing talk he gave
at our club's rock show: "Banded Ironstones: A Good
Candidate for the Most Fascinating Rock on Earth."

He will discuss the origins and importance of this
rock to the history of Earth and will also share his
adventures of finding it in central Wyoming. An "A"
grade specimen will be given to all attendees.



Above: Founder's Day Cake

Photo by Beth Walls

Rockonteur - August 2026

July General Meeting Highlights

Beth Walls, SLR

Our club gathered for a special Founder's Day celebration to honor the vision, dedication, and hard work of the individuals who established our society and helped build the strong rockhounding community we enjoy today. It was an evening filled with appreciation, fellowship, and plenty of sweet treats.

Members took time to reflect on the club's history, recognizing how our founders created opportunities for people of all ages to learn about rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth science. Their commitment to education, friendship, and sharing a love of geology continues to inspire each new generation of members.

Following the celebration, everyone enjoyed delicious cake and ice cream while visiting with fellow rockhounds, sharing stories from recent collecting trips, and looking ahead to upcoming field trips and club activities. The relaxed atmosphere reminded us that one of the greatest treasures of our club is the friendships formed through our shared passion for geology.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Founder's Day celebration a success. We are grateful for those who came before us and look forward to continuing their legacy by welcoming new members, encouraging young rockhounds, and keeping the spirit of exploration alive for years to come.



Photo by Beth Walls

Rockcontour - August 2026

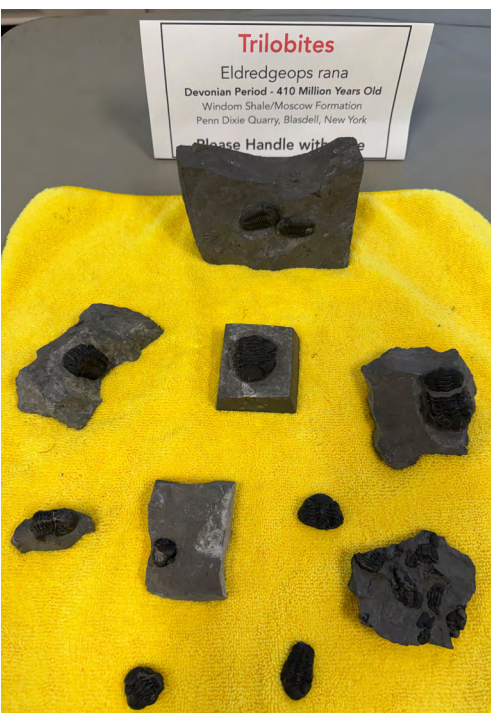
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July General Meeting Highlights (continued)

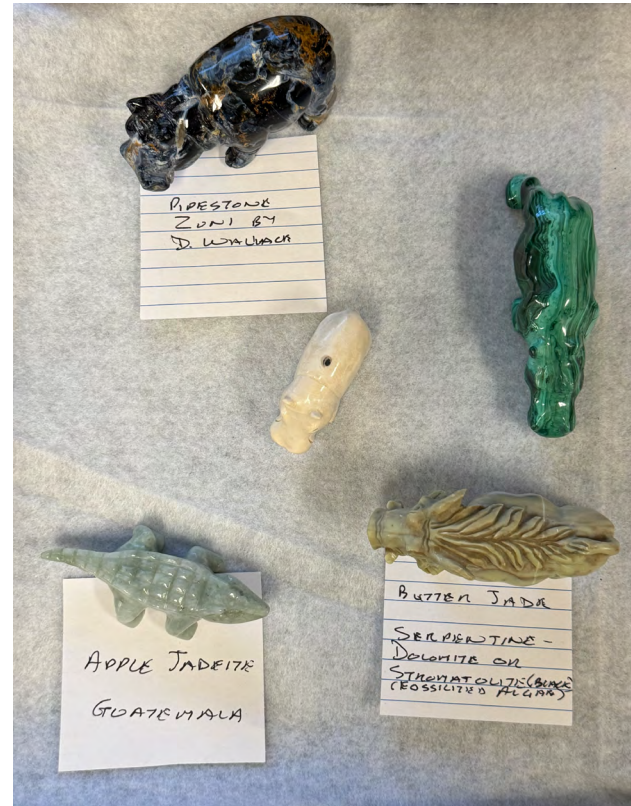


Photos on this page: President Ted Gray shared fossil specimens from his recent trip.

He also had some fossils available for members to take home with them to add to their collections.



July General Meeting Highlights (continued)



Photos on this page: Diane shared some pieces from her Zuni fetish collection. They are small, hand-carved stone animal figures created by skilled Zuni artisans of New Mexico.



Photo by Beth Walls

Rockhound Awards



Caleb Willis was chosen as the Santa Lucia Rockhounds' Rockhound of the Year. He was also chosen by last year's Founder's Award winners, Kathy and James Behrmann, to receive the 2026 Founder's Award. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the club, Caleb!



July Junior Rockhounds: Sand

Beth Walls, SLR

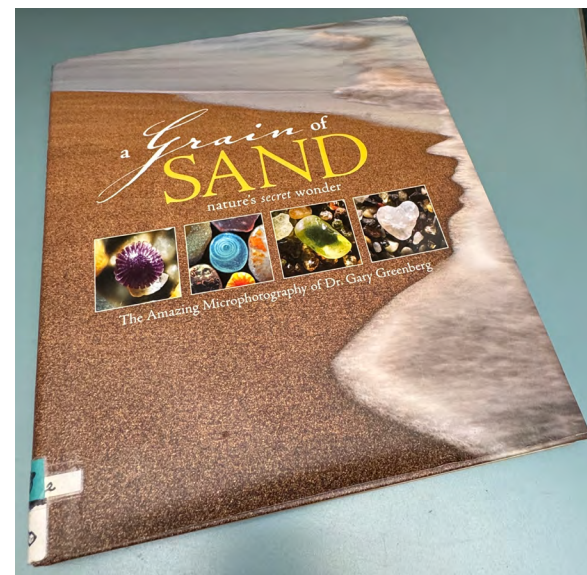
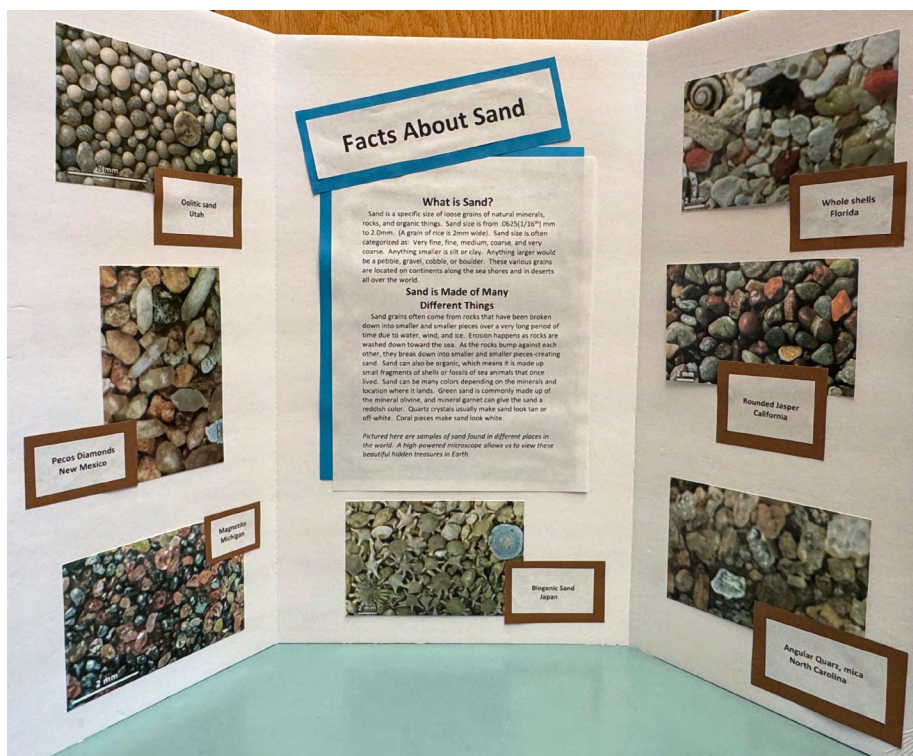
At their July meeting, the Junior Rockhounds dug into the world of sand. They discovered that sand is much more than tiny grains at the beach. They learned that every grain of sand tells a story about the rocks, minerals, and forces that shaped it over thousands, and sometimes millions, of years.

They were surprised to learn that not all sand is the same. Depending on where it comes from, sand can be made of quartz, feldspar, volcanic rock, shell fragments, coral, gypsum, or even tiny pieces of garnet.

One of the most exciting discoveries was learning that there are beaches with black sand created by volcanic eruptions, pink sand made from crushed coral and tiny marine organisms, green sand rich in the mineral olivine, and even white sand made almost entirely of pure quartz or shell fragments. Each unique beach reflects the geology of its surrounding landscape.

The juniors also discussed how scientists use sand to understand Earth's history. By studying sand, geologists can learn about ancient mountains, long-vanished rivers, volcanic activity, and changing coastlines. Sand grains act like tiny time capsules, preserving clues about the environments where they were formed.

By the end of the meeting, the Junior Rockhounds had a new appreciation for something many people walk across every day without a second thought. They learned that beneath every footprint is a fascinating collection of minerals and rock fragments, each with its own remarkable journey through time.



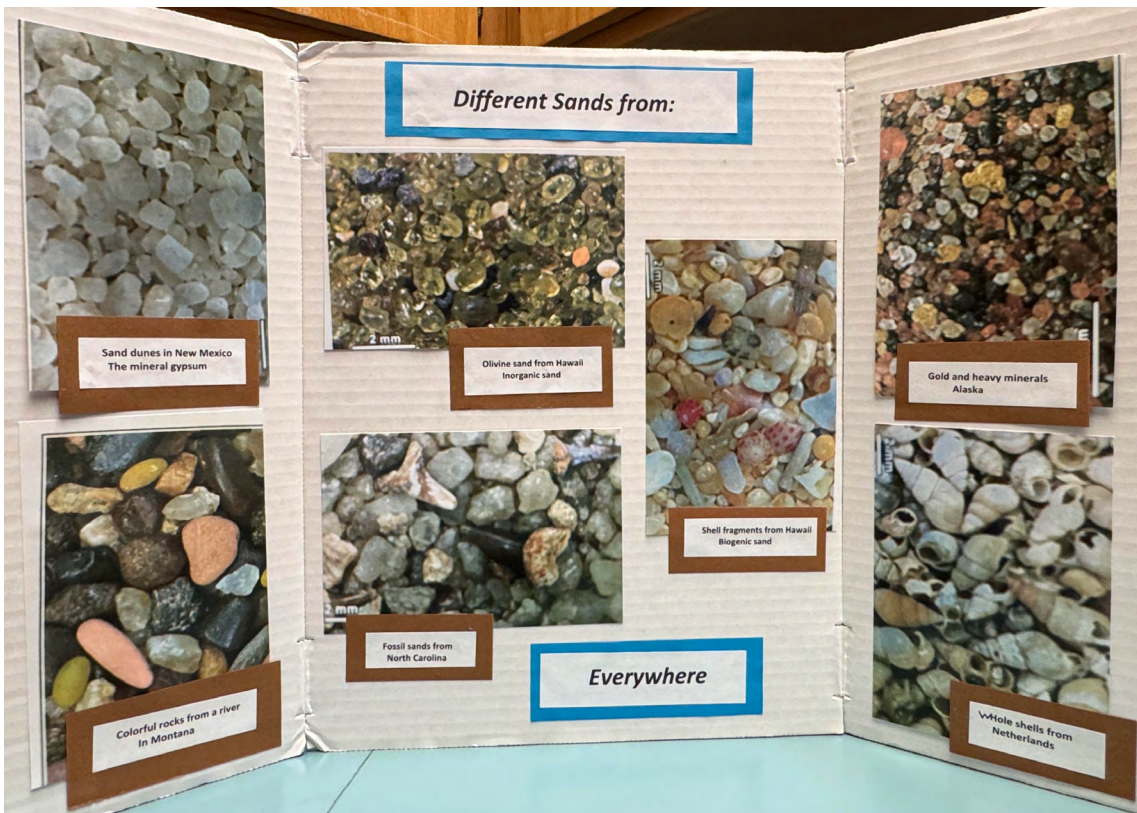
Photos by Beth Walls

July Junior Rockhounds (continued)

Our Junior Rockhounds discovered that not all sand is created equal! They explored black sand, learned how it forms from volcanic minerals, and were amazed to see its magnetic properties in action. Gold miners pay close attention to black sand because it often occurs in the same places where gold collects. Black sand helps during gold panning. As miners wash lighter sand and gravel away, black sand remains with the heaviest materials. If tiny flakes or nuggets of gold are present, they'll often be mixed in with the black sand concentrate.



Photos by Beth Walls



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: tvgems.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.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

July Field Trip to Highway 46W

Kim Noyes, SLR

Members of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds of North San Luis Obispo County and the San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club convened for a quick morning thunder-egg dig at the Highway 46 West Summit site before the heat hit.

Everyone found thunder-eggs despite all guests being first-time visitors to this locality.

SLR president Ted Gray had a nice haul from less than two hours work as we all were there from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Ted later made some cuts from his haul.



Mini thundereggs



Seam Agate



Highway 46W Field Trip (*continued*)

Slickenside



Left: Quartz with agate outlining it.

Right: Perlite material, similar to obsidian, gray and has high silica



Above and Below: Small thunderegg with quartz inside.



Left: Circular thunderegg

Right: Paper thin seam agate



Photos by Kim Noyes

Rockonteur - August 2026

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 - August 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)

Penn Dixie “Dig with the Experts”

Ted Gray, SLR

In June, I traveled back east on business and mixed in a little fossil hunting along the way.

In all, I hunted at six localities, all publicly accessible. The geological ages at these sites ranged from the Devonian to the Pleistocene, a span of over 400 million years! I have been to each of these localities in the past but there's always a chance of something new.

My work schedule just happened to coincide with an annual event at the Penn Dixie Fossil Park located near Buffalo NY.

Penn Dixie is well known in the trilobite world for its superbly preserved trilobite fossils. I have been to the quarry a number of times in the past and make a point of going there whenever my travels pass that way.

Right: Getting to the Layer the Old-Fashioned Way

The best layer for trilobites is about 2 feet below the surface, so it is hard work removing the overburden to get down to the right layer. Once there, the “Smoke Creek Trilobite Layer” is solid rock about a foot thick that must be levered out before even starting to hunt for the fossils.



Above: The Penn Dixie Site

The defunct Penn Dixie Cement Quarry, located near Buffalo, was converted to a fossil and nature park about 25 years ago and is open to the public for fossil collecting. The Windom Shale, exposed in the quarry, is rich in Devonian period fossils, including trilobites, corals, brachiopods, and other marine fauna from that time. The site is famous for the density of the fossils and the amazing quality of preservation.



Photos by Ted Gray

Penn Dixie “Dig with the Experts” (continued)



Left: Piles of the Fossil Layer Waiting for the Day

Once a year, the Hamburg Natural History Society holds a weekend-long fundraising event called “Dig with the Experts”. In preparation for the event, they bring in an excavator to dig up the fossil layer and pile it up on the surface. The piles are allowed to weather for a few months, but are reserved for the event. The “experts” are knowledgeable folks who volunteer during the event to aid in identifying and collecting the fossils.

Right: Anxious Hunters Waiting to Go

The DWTE typically occurs in early June. Tickets are limited, but usually, about 200 tickets are sold to enthusiasts who come from all over the US, Canada, and beyond for the opportunity to find nice trilobite fossils without the misery of digging up the layer by hand. After a brief safety announcement, the hungry hunters are released. A group of volunteers, i.e. the “Experts,” are on hand to assist in finding and identifying the finds.



Left: Diggers Attacking the Piles

The piled material is extensive and is open to any participant.

No one can claim a pile for their own, as there is plenty of material to go around. The participants may keep anything that they find.

Photos by Ted Gray

Penn Dixie "Dig with the Experts" (continued)



Left: Searching for the Bugs

The piles are composed of the overburden layers mixed in with solid blocks from the Smoke Creek Trilobite layer, but excellent-quality fossils can be found in all of the material.



Above: A Block of the Smoke Creek Trilobite Layer

The best trilobite fossils are mostly embedded inside the thick blocks, so it is necessary to split the blocks into small pieces in order to free the bugs. A regular rock hammer is not always up to the task, so a minimum of a 3-pounder and a chisel are essential. The shale is rather fissile, so it splits easily and usually along pre-existing fractures.



Left: Rob and Mike the Expert Admiring a Nice Find

When a nice specimen is found in a big block, the "experts" will help to stabilize the fossil, and if needed, they will cut the matrix block to a manageable size with a rock saw.

Penn Dixie "Dig with the Experts" (continued)

Right: Example of a prone Eldredgeops trilobite



Left: Example of a Typical Enrolled Trilobite



Right: A Rare Plate of Two Prone Eldredgeops



Penn Dixie "Dig with the Experts" (continued)



Left: Pile of Finds!
When you find something, you set it aside and keep hunting; "No field Prep"! Add it to your pile and break some more rocks!

Photos by Ted Gray

Right: A Probable Prone Eldredgeops in Unprepared Condition



Left: My 2026 Haul from Penn Dixie

I cracked rocks for both days of the event, amassing over 50 possible specimens. To protect them, I wrap them in foil. A few of them were known to be partials or lesser condition specimens, but those make good practice pieces for preparation prior to working on the better specimens.

As I was still traveling after the weekend, I shipped most of my finds home in two medium flat-rate boxes. The lady at the Post Office got a workout!

Penn Dixie "Dig with the Experts" (continued)



Left: The Same Specimen After Preparation

Once home, I get the pleasure of preparing the specimens. This is an example of a trilobite as it came out of the rock, and after completing the preparation process. Its tail is tucked underneath, but it's there.

Photos by Ted Gray

Right: Another Prepared Specimen

This guy was barely visible on the surface of the chunk as found and appeared to be a "roller". During preparation, I found it to be a complete prone example.



Left: The "Double" after Prep

The "double" was my best find of the weekend. The one on the right shows evidence of a previous injury near the tail, where the last segment is deformed. The grey blotch is a section of the shell that is still stuck on the counterpart, yet to be repaired.

Penn Dixie "Dig with the Experts" (continued)



Above: Other Penn Dixie Devonian Fossils

Although most people come for the trilobites, the Devonian aged Windom Shale is chock full of other marine fauna including multiple species of brachiopods, corals, snails and crinoid stems. Having collected many of these in the past, I only kept a few this year.



Left: 2026 Penn Dixie Haul
This is my trilobite haul from Penn Dixie for 2026, mostly rollers but more than my normal number of prones. With any luck, I'll be able to go back again next year!

Renewal Membership Application

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Demographic Information

Primary Member Name: _____ Date of Renewal: _____

(Primary member must be over 18 years of age)

Primary Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Primary Member Address: _____

Street Address / PO Box Unit #

City

Zip Code

Is this a family/group membership? (Circle): Yes No

If yes, please list below all secondary members in your group:

Name:	Age (if minor):	Phone Number (if different from above):	Email Address (if different from above):

Roster

All club member names, phone numbers, email addresses, and the city/town you live in are published in a roster which is available to the club membership. Information for minors is limited to name and email contact.

By checking OPT IN on this application along with payment, you are agreeing to the release of this information to the club's membership on behalf of you and your group members. To be excluded from any rosters made available to the club membership, check OPT OUT.

- Opt In
- Opt Out

Newsletter

Club newsletters are sent to members by email or available from the club website as a PDF file suitable for printing.

Annual Dues

Annual dues cover the twelve month period from September 01 to August 31. Dues must be renewed between August 1st and November 30th of each year. Please mail the fee and this membership renewal application to the address below. Make checks payable to Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Credit/Debit transactions can be made in person at the meetings.

Primary member (adult): \$30

Address: Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Membership Chairperson
PO Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447

Each additional family/group member: \$10

Office Use Only

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Paid by: Cash / CC / Check CC Type/Last 4: _____ Check #: _____

Receipt #: _____ Receipt Date: _____ Roster Updated: _____ Receipt: Emailed / Texted / Mailed



New Membership Application

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Demographic Information

Primary Member Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

(Primary member must be over 18 years of age)

Primary Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Primary Member Address: _____
Street Address / PO Box Unit # City Zip Code

Is this a family/group membership? (Circle): Yes No

If yes, please list below all secondary members in your group:

Name:	Age (if minor):	Phone Number (if different from above):	Email Address (if different from above):

Membership Benefits

Club members enjoy:

- 11 monthly meetings with a variety of informational and educational presentations related to rockhounding
- Monthly digital copies of "The Rockonteur", our newsletter, with rock-related articles and information
- Junior Rockhounds badge-earning program where kids learn to collect and identify rocks, minerals, and fossils
- Annual demonstration day to learn about various lapidary equipment (polishing/cutting engraving stones)
- Participating in a variety of fun, family-oriented field trips
- Access to the club's library of geology, rock collecting, and lapidary books and magazines
- Networking opportunities with lapidary experts
- Club insurance as required for each member while participating in club activities/field trips

Tell Us About Yourself

We are pleased you wish to become a part of our club! Please take a moment to summarize your interests.

I learned about the club from _____.

I/We are interested in learning about the following (please check all that apply):

- Geology Fossils
- Jewelry Making
- Collecting
- Tumbling
- Cabbings
- Faceting
- Field Trips
- Identifying Materials
- Other: _____

I would like help getting started with: _____

I have some knowledge, training, or skill in the following area(s) that I want to further develop:

We encourage new members to get involved by participating in club activities. Please indicate your interest in helping with organizing or coordinating the following activities (please check all that apply):

- Annual Rock Show (April)
- Field Trip Planning
- Newsletter Production
- Classes/Workshops
- School/Community Presentations
- Hospitality/Refreshments
- Social Media/Website
- Junior Rockhound Program

Is there anything more you would like to tell us about you and your family?

Roster

All club member names, phone numbers, email addresses, and the city/town you live in are published in a roster which is available to the club membership. Information for minors is limited to name and email contact.

By checking OPT IN on this application along with payment, you are agreeing to the release of this information to the club's membership on behalf of you and your group members. To be excluded from any rosters made available to the club membership, check OPT OUT.

- Opt In
- Opt Out

Newsletter

Club newsletters are sent to members by email or available from the club website as a PDF file suitable for printing.

Annual Dues

Annual dues cover the twelve month period from September 01 to August 31. Dues must be renewed between August 1st and November 30th of each year. **If joining the club after April 1st, the dues are reduced by one-half for the remaining year (April 1st to July 31st). Primary member (adult) is \$15.00 and each additional family/group member is \$5.00.*

Please mail the fee and this membership renewal application to the address below. Make checks payable to Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Credit/Debit transactions can be made in person at the meetings.

Primary member (adult): \$30

Each additional family/group member: \$10

Address: Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Membership Chairperson
PO Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447

Office Use Only

Directors Certifying Application Acceptance

Date of Acceptance: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Via: _____

Receipt #: _____

Packet Issued: _____ Button Ordered: _____

Applicant Notified of Acceptance: _____

Roster Updated & Distributed: _____

August Birthstones: Peridot, Spinel, & Sardonyx

Beth Walls, SLR

Those born in August are fortunate to have not one, but three beautiful birthstones to represent their birth month: peridot, spinel, and sardonyx.

Each stone has its own unique beauty, history, and meaning, offering plenty of options for personal expression and celebration.

Peridot: The Gem of the Sun

Color & Appearance

Peridot is most famous for its bright, lime-green hue. Its fresh green color comes from the presence of iron and is often described as cheerful and vibrant. Unlike many other gemstones, peridot occurs in only one color — green — though shades may vary from yellow-green to olive, depending on iron content.

History & Symbolism

Ancient Egyptians called peridot the “gem of the sun” and believed it protected against nightmares and brought good luck.

It was once mistaken for emeralds in historical treasures.

Peridot is associated with peace, good fortune, and harmony.

Origin & Sources

The volcanic island of Zabargad (St. John’s Island) in the Red Sea



The preferred color for peridot is a pure “grass” green without any hint of yellow or brown. The large (364 ct) crystal is from the historic Red Sea source, Zabargad. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/august-birthstones>

has produced peridot for over 3,000 years.

Today, peridot is also mined in Arizona (USA), Myanmar, Pakistan, China, and Vietnam.

Some peridot even comes from meteorites, making it one of the few gemstones that can be extraterrestrial in origin!

Durability & Care

Peridot ranks 6.5–7 on the Mohs hardness scale.

Clean gently with warm soapy water and avoid exposure to harsh chemicals or sudden temperature changes.

Spinel: The Hidden Treasure

Color & Appearance

Spinel comes in a dazzling range of colors — from rich reds, vibrant pinks, and oranges to purples, blues, and even black. Red spinel was often mistaken for ruby in ancient crown jewels.

History & Symbolism

Spinel symbolizes energy, renewal, and revitalization.

Many famous “rubies” in royal collections (such as the Black Prince’s Ruby in the British Crown Jewels) are actually spinel.

Spinel was officially added as an August birthstone in 2016.

Origin & Sources

Notable sources include Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tanzania, and Madagascar.

Durability & Care

Spinel has a Mohs hardness of 8, making it very durable for everyday wear. Clean with mild soap and water; avoid harsh ultrasonic cleaners for softer nels.

Sardonyx: The Ancient Protector

Color & Appearance

Sardonyx combines the rich reddish-brown tones of sard with the contrasting white bands of onyx, creating beautiful layered patterns.

History & Symbolism

Sardonyx has been used in jewelry,

August Birthstones (continued)



These spinels represent several different hues and countries. From left to right: a 10.92 ct oval red spinel from Mogok, a 20.08 ct cushion cut violet spinel from Myanmar, a 13.78 ct oval violet spinel from Myanmar, and a 7.92 oval dark blue spinel from Ratnapura, Sri Lanka. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/august-birthstones>

Each stone carries centuries of meaning, tradition, and beauty — making them timeless gifts and personal treasures.

Fun Fact:

The variety of August birthstones makes it one of the most colorful birth months of the year!



A flat oval polished sardonyx tablet showing varying orange and white banding.

Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA.

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/august-birthstones>

seals, and cameos for thousands of years.

Ancient warriors wore sardonyx amulets engraved with heroes and gods to give them courage in battle. It is associated with strength, protection, and clear communication.

Origin & Sources

Sardonyx can be found in India, Brazil, Germany, Uruguay, and the United States.

Durability & Care

Sardonyx ranks 6.5–7 on the Mohs scale. Clean with warm soapy water and a soft brush.

Choosing Your August Birthstone

Whether you're drawn to the sparkling green of peridot, the vibrant shades of spinel, or the earthy patterns of sardonyx, August birthstones offer something for everyone.

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