



Rockonteur

The Monthly Newsletter of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds

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P.O. Box 1672
Paso Robles, CA 93447



President's Message

My Fellow Rockhounds,

September begins the two-month period for your membership renewal. For the first time, you will have the option to renew your membership online! Here is the link to the membership renewal webpage.

[Membership Renewal Application – Santa Lucia Rockhounds](#)

September also marks the start of the search for volunteers to serve as club officers. The full slate of officers is a legal requirement for the club to maintain its status as a 501C non-profit entity. The Nominating Committee was formed at the August meeting and has until the November meeting to fill the slate. I will be sending out e-mails regularly describing the duties of the officer positions so that you can have advanced knowledge of the duties of each position, which should reduce any apprehension and uncertainty about what you will be getting into!

If you did not attend the August meeting, you missed out on a great presentation by Bruce Mundt on the Banded Iron Formation rocks that tell the story of one of the earliest forms of life on planet Earth. AND everyone got to take home a sample of the rocks he has found in the mountains of southern Wyoming. Kudos to Bruce on a great show!

Also at the August meeting, I offered a proposal for the club to build a Mobile Lapidary Shop that would give club

members access to lapidary equipment few of us have at home. At this point, the progress is simply the formation of an Exploratory Committee. Your input and ideas will be crucial to seeing this project through to fruition. Please read the article on this and take a few minutes to complete the online survey that will guide the Exploratory Committee's work.

This month's general meeting is on Monday, September 21st at the Templeton Community Center at 7 PM. I'll be in England hunting for ammonite and trilobite fossils, so Senior Director Ken Gagner will be running the show. The scheduled presentation will be given by a guest speaker from the Orcutt Mineral Society. Josiah Frias will speak about the rocks and fossils of Jalama Beach and the Thunder Eggs from Tranquillon Mountain.

Finally, a hearty congratulations is in order to Chelsea Willis and her husband Caleb, the club's "Rockhound of the Year", for bringing forth into the world our newest junior rockhound, Morgan Wild Willis!

So be there on September 21st to enjoy the show and hang with your fellow rockhounds.

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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and
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mrs.cpt.adams@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

September Board Meeting

Monday, September 7th, Templeton Community Center at 7 p.m.

September Junior Rockhound Meeting

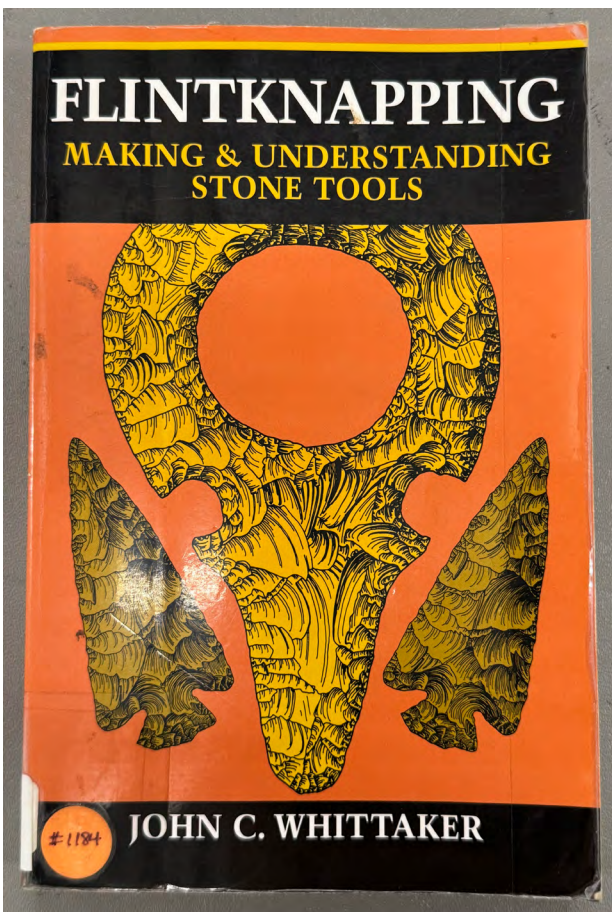
The September Junior Rockhounds Meeting will be held Monday, September 21st at 6 p.m. at the Templeton Community Center.

September Field Trip

Watch your email for details on September Rockhounding Field Trips!

September General Meeting

The September General Meeting will be held Monday, September 21st at the Templeton Community Center at 7 p.m.



Above: A flint knapping book recommendation from Ralph Lawless!

Banded Ironstone: A Rock with an Ancient Story

Beth Walls, SLR

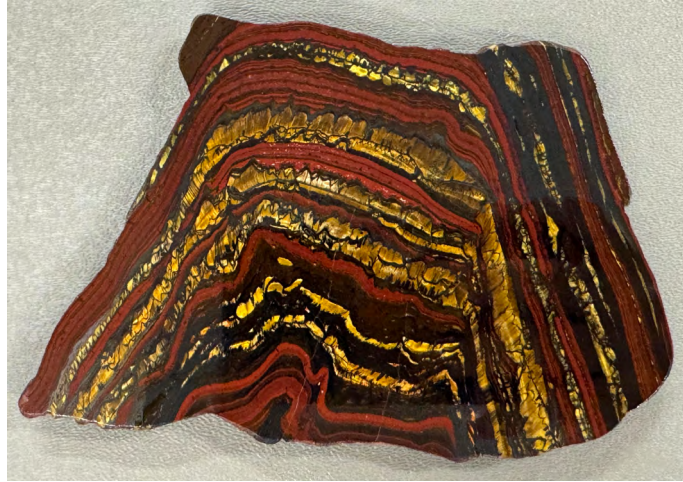
Bruce Mundt shared all about banded ironstone during the August general meeting, including giving each person a piece of it for their collections.

Banded ironstone, also known as tiger iron, is a fascinating rock with a history stretching back more than two billion years. Some of the specimens shared at the meeting are approximately 2.3 billion years old!

The Wyoming specimens come from the Seminoe Mountains, north of Sinclair along the North Platte River. This area is also known for the famous Miracle Mile, a popular destination for trout fishermen. For rockhounds, however, the rocks along the river offer their own kind of treasure.

Banded ironstone is formed in ancient oceans through a process called chemical sedimentation. It consists of layers containing minerals such as hematite, magnetite, and jasper. Billions of years ago, iron dissolved in the ocean combined with oxygen, forming iron oxides that eventually settled onto the ocean floor. Layer after layer accumulated over an enormous span of time, eventually forming the distinctive banded rock we see today.

The bands can range from dark, iron-rich layers to lighter-colored jasper. Some specimens are magnetic because of their magnetite content, while others may not be. The contrast between the different minerals creates the beautiful patterns that make



Photos by Beth Walls

Banded Ironstone (continued)

tiger iron so popular with collectors.

Interestingly, banded iron formations are no longer forming under today's conditions. Their presence provides scientists with valuable clues about the chemistry of Earth's ancient oceans and serves as indirect evidence of the dramatic changes taking place during the time of Earth's earliest life.

Along the North Platte River, natural water action has polished some pieces over time. A freshly broken piece can look rather ordinary, while a polished surface reveals the striking bands hidden inside. Mineral oil can also be used to temporarily bring out the colors and give specimens a polished appearance.

Banded ironstone is a wonderful reminder of why rockhounding is so much more than collecting pretty rocks. Each specimen can be a window into Earth's deep past, and this one takes us back more than two billion years!

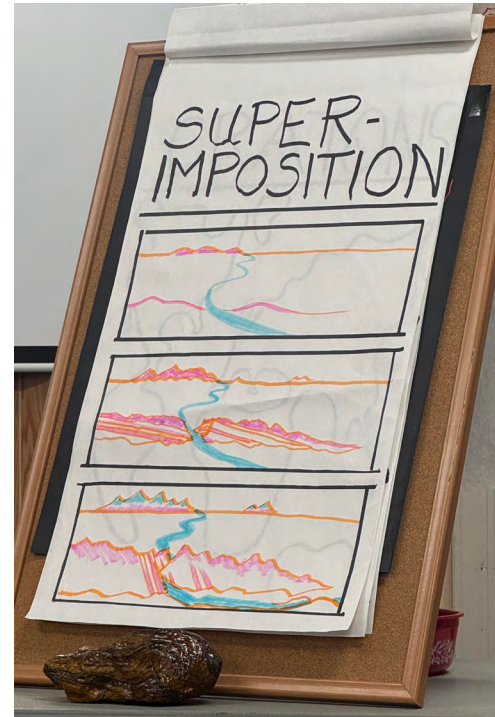
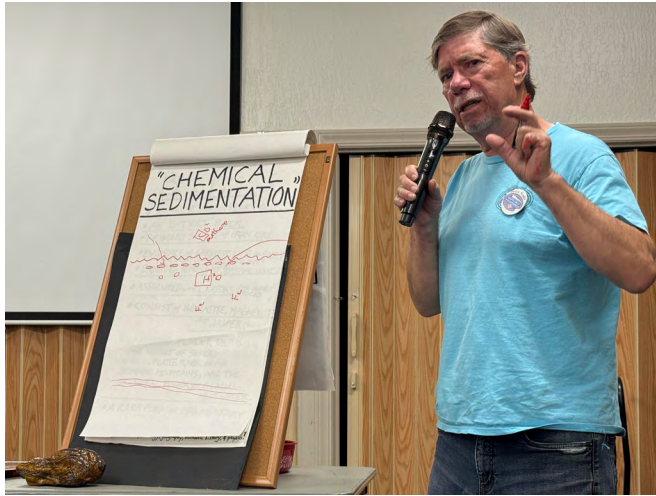


Photo by Beth Walls

August General Meeting Highlights



Above and Right: Bruce shared how the specimen above was accidentally dropped, breaking off a piece and revealing the inside of the rock, shown in the photo to the right. The contrast is striking! The freshly broken interior is dull and unassuming, while the smooth, polished exterior reveals the beautiful bands and colors that make banded ironstone so unique.



In Memoriam: Richard Smithen

Barbara Bilyeu, SLR

Our friend and rockhound buddy Richard Smithen passed away on July 31, 2026, at the age of 82. He was a Cal Fire Battalion Chief in Fresno County when he retired, stationed out of Coalinga.

Richard was an early member of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds, and he served as president in 2010 and 2011. He was the recipient of the Founders Award in 2012.

Richard was a vibrant, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic member of the rockhound community, and his friendship with "the locals" was helpful in getting us access to good collecting areas.

Most notably, he was able to arrange several field trips for our club to the Fitzhugh Ranch to collect thundereggs. He was also a fun and joyful person to be around, and we will miss his good humor and his smile.



Photos submitted by Barbara Bilyeu



August Junior Rockhounds: Sand

Beth Walls, SLR

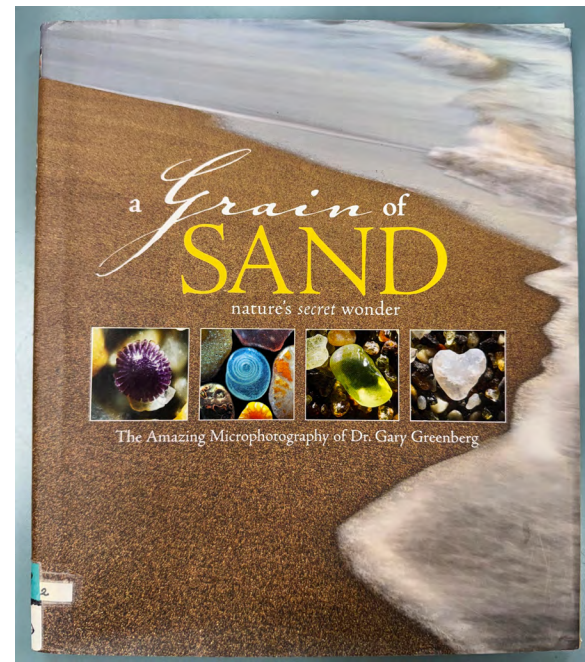
Our Junior Rockhounds recently got down to the gritty details and learned all about sand! They discovered that the sand we see on a beach has traveled a long way and can have quite a story to tell.

So, how does sand get to the beach?

Water, wind, ice, and gravity are all part of the journey. When rain falls, it can wash soil and tiny pieces of rock into streams and rivers. This process, called erosion, moves sediment from one place to another.



Photos by Beth Walls



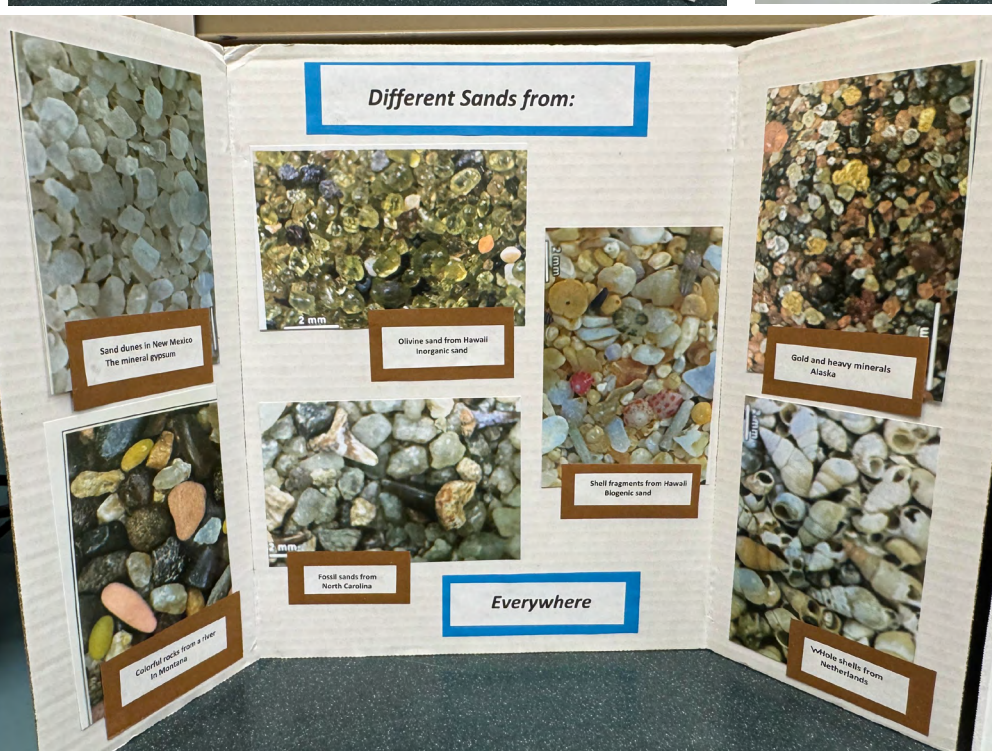
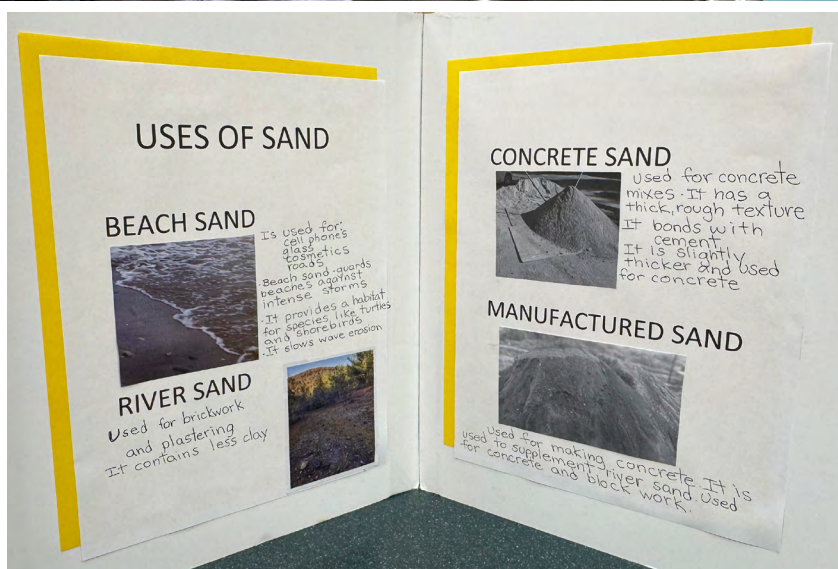
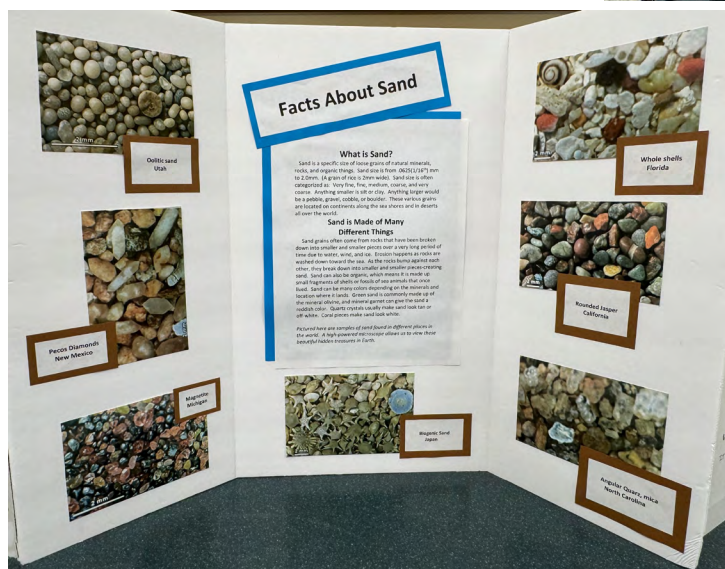
August Junior Rockhounds (continued)

Rivers eventually carry some of that sediment toward the ocean, where waves and currents can move it along the shore and onto beaches.

Water isn't the only transportation system for sand. Wind can pick up and move sand grains, sometimes carrying them across dunes and beaches.

Ice and glaciers can also transport rocks and sediment as they slowly move across the landscape.

And, of course, gravity is always ready to help move loose material downhill!

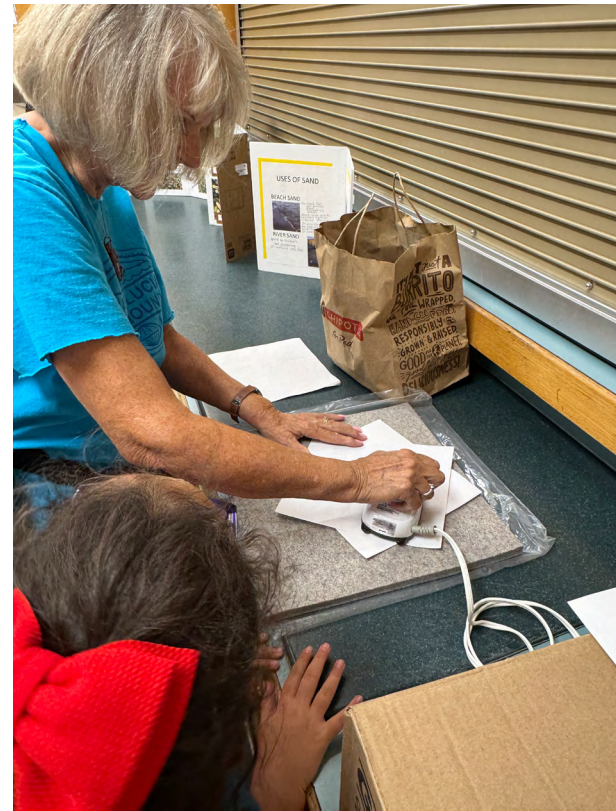


The Junior Rockhounds also took a closer look at the sand grains themselves. They learned that sand isn't all the same. Individual grains can have different shapes, colors, sizes, and patterns depending on what they are made of and how they have traveled. Some grains are smooth and rounded from being tumbled by water, while others are rough or angular.

Our Junior Rockhounds learned that a handful of sand is really a collection of tiny pieces of Earth's history. Every grain has a journey, and every beach has a story!

Photos by Beth Walls

August Junior Rockhounds (continued)



The Junior Rockhounds got creative with their sand study by making sandpaper and crayon artwork! They drew colorful designs directly onto sandpaper using crayons. Then came the fun part: with a little heat from an iron, their artwork could be transferred onto a new piece of paper.

The finished image not only captured their colorful design, but also had the unique texture of the sandpaper pressed into the artwork. It was a fun way to turn their lesson about sand into something they could create and take home!



2026 Rock and Gem Shows

Mark your calendars!

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@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.rocks>

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 / 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

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>

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: gemsshow@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@ccmgsclub.com

Website: www.ccmgsclub.com



Check out this amazing
[Rock & Mineral
Informational Directory](#)
from the Tehachapi Valley
Gem & Mineral Society

GEM & MINERAL SHOW





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

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

August Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's

Kim Noyes, SLR

Members of the San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club and Santa Lucia Rockhounds of Northern San Luis Obispo County visited the Ralph Bishop Collection and a fun time was had by all two-dozen or so attendees.

Ralph was up to his usual raconteur self regaling guests with his collection's origin story and some select focus on specific pieces in his vast collection.

Every tour is unique so there is no repetition or redundancy. This was probably my sixth-ish go-around and today I heard utterly new information.

Both before and after the tour there was plenty of sales as Ralph culls some select B-grade and C-grade material to the delight of grateful guests.



Above: Cass and her Mom were in the pole position of the tour receiving the focus of Ralph's attention

Right: Attendance, though robust, allowed for one largish tour instead of two or three smaller ones as has been necessary in the past

Below: Druzy Quartz tandem stalactites from a void-space gas-bubble in Nipomo Agate-bearing basalts in the hills east of Nipomo, CA



Above: The lads shopping pre-tour



Below: Point Sal Gypsum "Hopper Crystal" pseudomorphs after Halite



Ralph Bishop Field Trip (*continued*)



Above: Ralph explains things to Cass and her mother, two newer members of SLR



Above: Nipomo Sagenitic Agate



Left:
Nipomo
Marcasitic
Agate



Right:
Botryoidal
Nipomo
Beanfield Agate

Below: Nipomo Sagenitic Agate Stalactites covered in Druzy Quartz crystals



Right:
Nipomo
Sagenitic
Agate



Ralph Bishop Field Trip (*continued*)



Left: 'Twas impossible not taking photos to prove to oneself and friends what one thinks one saw here.



Above: Nipomo Sagenitic Agate



Above: Big Sur "Bubble Beach" Botryoidal Jade



Left: Nipomo Agates

Photos by Kim Noyes

Ralph Bishop Field Trip (continued)



Above: Nipomo Sagenitic Agate

Below: San Simeon Creek Cinnabar nodule



Below: Nipomo Agate quartz crystal-lined geode



Right: Santa Lucia Rockhounds' club president Ted Gray later in the day in his own shop showing fossilized marine mammal skull replete with written map of head parts courtesy of Ralph Bishop Collection-turned-Ted Gray Collection. Ted will museum-grade prep this piece!



Below: Nipomo Marcasitic Agate



Above: Nipomo Sagenitic Agate

Photos by Kim Noyes

Mobile Lapidary and Rock Shop Proposal

Ted Gray, SLR

I recently participated in the July field trip to the Highway 46 roadcut to collect thunder eggs. My son and I found a bucket full of them, from walnut-sized to as big as a grapefruit. As you probably know, a thunder egg is one butt-ugly rock on the outside.

To see what you have found, you have to cut that guy open and then to make it look really nice, it has to be polished to a glassy finish. Sounds simple, but if you don't have the proper equipment and/or some training or experience, you're going to be left with broken dreams and your butt ugly rock.

Now, I am luckier than most as my wife, Karin, is an accomplished lapidary artist and silversmith, so we have more than the usual amount of lapidary equipment, including a 10" slab saw, a 6" trim saw, and a cabochon machine.

Now, a 10" saw is nice, but due to the technical details, it can only cut rocks about the size of a lemon. So, we were able to cut some of the smaller thunder eggs to see what we got inside.

As a rookie, I was pretty happy with most of the few that we cut; only one was a complete dud. However, the biggest ones won't fit in the saw, so I am still left with broken dreams and some butt-ugly rocks!

As for polishing, the walnut-sized ones could be polished on the cabochon machine, and they came out pretty nice, but alas,

anything larger required other equipment.

I have a 15" Vibrating Lap that I acquired about three years ago at one of Cliff Brewen's annual November "Club Flea Market". At the Tucson show, I acquired some "grits" to go with it.

So, I watched a couple of YouTube videos and gave it a try... Needless to say, after hours and days of vibrating, they did not come out anywhere near as nice as those you see from our pros, Galen Moyer or the Bilyeus! Clearly, I lack the proper equipment and training to finish the job, and my garage is already full of stuff.

As a relatively new member of the club, I was aware that there had previously been efforts to have a "shop" with lapidary tools and equipment for use by club members that never came to fruition due to the high costs of a "brick and mortar" facility. As president, I am also aware that we have a substantial "endowment" held in the form of a "Certificate of Deposit."

To gain some perspective, I spoke to Gene and Barbara Bilyeu, both founding members of the club and both former presidents, about the history of the efforts to provide club members with a "shop" that provides access to the tools and equipment that most all of us cannot have at home due to space and cost.

"A shop for our members to use has been a goal almost from the beginning of the club, 35 years ago. There have been numerous attempts to put

together something workable in various places, including senior citizen facilities, private individual properties, the Pioneer Museum, rental storage units, and of course, the property that the club purchased in the early 2000s."

"We were fortunate enough to purchase it very cheaply and had a number of younger construction-type members at the time. We thought it was workable. Our president at the time was a retired city planner from a large city and thought he could shepherd it through little old Paso. Well, unfortunately, the lot was just too small to accommodate all the requirements of the city, and our bank account could not handle the expenses. After several years of attempts to somehow make it work, it was decided to sell the lot. In short, that is where the major portion of the money in our CD came from."

With my uncut and unpolished thunder eggs sitting in my yard staring me down, it occurred to me that since a "brick and mortar" shop is out of our league, perhaps a "mobile shop" could work!

I envisioned an enclosed trailer large enough to house all of the tools and equipment that I would need to convert my butt-ugly rocks into beautiful thunder eggs!

As a sanity check, I visited a shop enclosed in a 20-foot container that was built by our own Don Huntingdon and his pal Don Pierce (RIP). In this space, they have in place all of the equipment that they have used to create the wonderful, award-winning

Mobile Lapidary and Rock Shop Proposal (continued)

lapidary displays that you see at the rock show every year. From that visit, I was convinced that the “mobile shop” concept was achievable.

I presented this concept at the August Board meeting, and all board members were in favor of the idea. So, at the August general meeting, I presented the idea to the club at large, and we voted to authorize an “Exploratory Committee” to investigate its feasibility.

The first step in this process is to gather input from us, the club members, via an “online survey” on the capabilities we want the trailer to have. The link below takes you to the online survey, which the committee has prepared in order to provide the “direction” on how to put together a design that meets the needs and desires of the club.

The committee comprises some of our most experienced members, so they know much of what it takes to ensure the mobile shop meets the capabilities outlined in the survey results. Further comments and suggestions will also be collected for review by the committee.

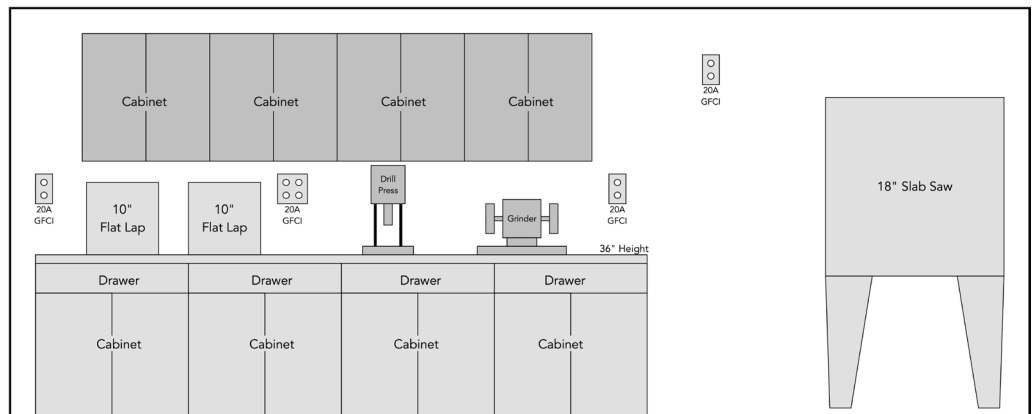
We would like to have the survey results completed by the September General Meeting on September 21, so don’t dawdle, fill out the survey today! Based on those results, the committee is tasked with presenting a detailed design proposal at the November General Meeting.

Below are some photos and conceptual layout renderings of a mobile lapidary shop.

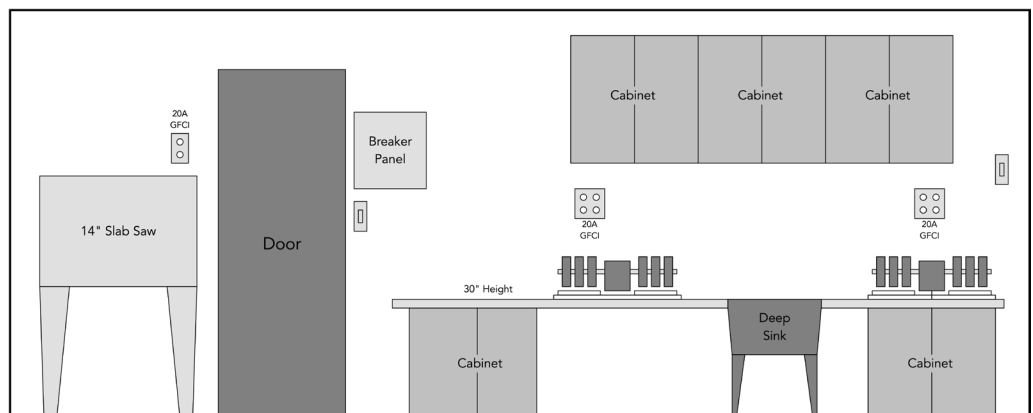
Submitted by Ted Gray



Above: Trailer



Above: Floor Plan: Left Side



Above: Floor Plan: Right Side

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
- Cabbing
- 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: _____

September Birthstone: Sapphire

Beth Walls, SLR

September's birthstone, the sapphire, has been admired for centuries for its deep, velvety blue tones and enduring symbolism.

Known as a gem of wisdom, loyalty, and protection, sapphires are one of the most treasured gemstones in the world.

A Stone of Many Colors

While the sapphire is most famous for its rich royal blue, it actually comes in a rainbow of shades. Sapphires can be found in pink, yellow, orange, green, purple, and even colorless varieties.

The classic deep blue remains the most prized and recognized.

History and Symbolism

Throughout history, sapphires have carried powerful meanings. Ancient Persians believed the sky was painted blue by the reflection of giant sapphires.

In medieval Europe, clergy wore blue sapphires to symbolize heaven, and kings favored them as a sign of wisdom and protection from envy or harm.

The stone is also deeply tied to themes of truth, sincerity, and faithfulness, making it a popular choice for engagement rings and meaningful gifts.



Sapphire:

Above: Polished, Right: Rough

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

Strength and Durability

Sapphires belong to the corundum family of minerals and score a 9 on the Mohs hardness scale, second only to diamonds.

This durability makes them ideal for everyday wear in rings, necklaces, and other jewelry pieces.

Famous Sapphires

One of the most iconic sapphires is the engagement ring once worn by Princess Diana and now worn by Catherine, Princess of Wales.

The ring features a stunning deep blue sapphire surrounded by diamonds, cementing the stone's reputation as a timeless choice for love and commitment.

Modern Connections

Today, sapphires remain a symbol of elegance and devotion. They are often given as gifts for September birthdays or to celebrate 5th and 45th wedding anniversaries.



Sapphire Ring, Courtesy: JYE's International

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



Above: Ralph Johnson shared his beautiful Lilac Druzy Amethyst Geode

Photo by Beth Walls

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