



Pick & Shovel

San Gorgonio
Mineral & Gem
Society

President's Message

Hello Everyone,
I hope that you are doing well. As the holiday season approaches, I wanted to thank everyone for your contributions to the club, as well as for your presence in our meetings.

I hope to see you all at the events that we have planned out for the rest of the year!

Sincerely,
Alexa Velazquez



Volume 8, Issue 7
November 2025

Our Mission Statement

The San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society is organized to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the Earth sciences, and shall endeavor to unite and associate those persons who are interested in the collecting of semi-precious stones and the study of minerals and sciences; to encourage and practice the study of the lapidary art; to provide field excursions to localities of interest; and for enlarging our fund of geological knowledge.

Interview of Tammy Cardona by Alexa Velazquez

Question: What has been your favorite part of being a member and how has the club altered your life or even your appreciation of rocks and minerals?

Answer: That would be becoming a part of a wonderful group of like minded people and getting to know all of them. I feel like we are family. The club has altered my life in a very positive way. It has given me more confidence and I have learned so much from the other members. I feel like I actually have been able to be an asset in some way.

Question: Which field trip has been the most enjoyable for you?

Answer: My favorite field trip would have to be Garnet Hill, because my granddaughter, Adriana, was with me. We had a great time finding Garnets together.

Question: What is a wish you have for the club? What would you like to learn about in the future in regards to rocks and minerals and what is a place you think that the club would like to go to as a part of a field trip?

Answer: My wish for the club would be that we can grow bigger and attract some of the younger generation. My knowledge is limited so the knowledge of other club members is so great. I believe that you can never have enough knowledge. You should have something new every day.



Tammy & her Granddaughter at Garnet Hill.

Inside this issue:

<i>General Meeting Minutes</i>	2
<i>Birthday Wishes!</i>	2
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>Event Calendars</i>	4
<i>Rockhound Humor</i>	5
<i>Board of Directors</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Shows and Events</i>	6

October 7, 2025 - General Meeting Minutes

Following a wonderful potluck, the General meeting was brought to order at 7:03 p.m., by President, Alexa Velazquez.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Alexa mentioned the annual voting was to be concluded before the October board meeting on the 21st. when the votes will be counted.

SUNSHINE REPORT:

Keep Bob Zola in your thoughts and prayers, he is not feeling well. Also, Judy Mifflin, our club secretary, is helping her father transition into an assisted living facility and could use our thoughts and prayers.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Peggy Richard, our club treasurer, spoke about how the money we receive through our dues, raffles, rock sales, etc... is distributed. She also advised if anyone has any questions or concerns about the financial aspects of the club to reach out to her.

FIELD TRIPS:

A sign up sheet was passed around to see how many

members would be interested in a field trip to the Banning Art Museum. Thank you to Tom and Lisa Spencer for providing us with the details of the museum.

OLD BUSINESS:

We had our first "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting and Rhonda Smoot was our first member to bring in some beautiful specimens that she has in her collection. If you would like to show off some of your own pieces at the next meeting, give Alexa a call to have her sign you up! We would love to see them.

Our "Welcome back" picnic was a success. Congratulations to Rhonda Smoot who won the "Best Rock Craft" challenge. It was a nice time seeing many of our members after our 2 months off.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our fall ROCK SALE, is scheduled for Nov. 15th From 9am to 3pm. We do need volunteers to help set up and break down every thing. It is important for every member to step up and volunteer for our many events.

Our annual Christmas party will be on December 2nd. In a new location. More info to come.

Indio fair dates are Feb 13th thru March the 1st. More info to come.

Critter party this coming Saturday, Oct. 11th

This months program was a talk about the devastating Dragon Bravo fire at the Grand Canyon. Thank you Dr. Stephenie!

Congratulations to Pedro Velazques for winning this months raffle prize.

This months "Shop Days" are: Saturday Oct 11, 8am to 12pm, and Saturday Oct. 25, 8am to 12pm.

Next Board meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 21st at 6:00pm

Next General meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 4th Potluck at 6:00pm with the meeting to follow

Respectfully submitted by
Tammy Cardona,
for Judy Mifflin, Secretary.

Birthday Wishes to these Club Members!

November

Alexa Velazquez on the 1st.
Tammy Cardona on the 6th.
Amy Kennedy on the 8th.
Eric Mandeson on the 15th.
Bob Zola on the 15th.
Anjanette Lomas on the 22th.
Adriana Hamack on the 22th.



Hoss Brown on the 27th.

December

Harlan Hancock on the 13th.
Sonia Zola on the 15th.
Elizabeth Landry on the 17th.
Peggy Richard on the 21st.
Fred Richard on the 23rd.
Harvey Marcell on the 29th.

October 21, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 6:07 p.m.
Board members present were Alexa Velazquez, Bob Zola, John Scofield, Helen Sapienzae, and Peggy Richard. Club members present were Fred Richard and Pedro Velazquez.

Sunshine report - Judy is still recuperating. We hope to see her with us soon. Correspondence includes that a member of Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral club has passed away and Dr. Stephenie is trying to help find a home for two of his male dachshund dogs (father & son) aged 10 and about 6. If interested, please contact Dr. Stephenie.

Treasurer's report was shared by Peggy. We also voted in new member Chrissy Jackson. Welcome to the club Chrissy.

New and Old Business:

We will join YVGMS on a field trip to Ludlow on Sunday, November 9th. You can meet them at the Pilot Gas Station at 2591 Commerce Pkwy. in Barstow at 7:30 am or at 68475 Rd. in Newberry Springs, CA at 9:00 am which is the Ludlow Café. We will be collecting thulite and fluorite. Any other questions, see Fred Richard.

Rock sale is November 15th from 9-3 pm. Gates will open at 7 am to begin the set up. Advertisements have been distributed throughout the valley and on Facebook. Signs are being

made to put out into the community. Let a board member know if you wish to be a vendor. Vendors need to bring their own tables if possible and agree to give 10% of their sales to the club. There will be a list of things to be done circulating at the next general meeting. We have several people signed up to participate which is so appreciated. Angel found a Mexican food truck that is planning to park near our club house to be available during the sale. They will be there by 8 am.

The Christmas party will be on December 2nd at Grace Lutheran Church on 1000 W. Wilson St. in Banning at 6 pm. The food sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting. \$20 Gift exchange is optional with women bringing gifts for women and men for men. More details will be given at the next general meeting by Helen Sapienzae.

CFMS Junior Rockhound program for kids aged 10-17 years was shared with the board. Alexa has been working with this program to help her sister learn about rocks, etc. She will use this information for the club and may call on volunteers to help with it.

The recent critter party went very well. We have bird houses ready to paint and decorate as well as many rocks to paint in preparation for the fair. Upcoming shop days include October 25, November 8 and the

22 from 8-12 pm. Fred and Lou could use help getting things ready for the fair. Next critter party will be Nov. 8th and we encourage everyone to bring a snack to share.

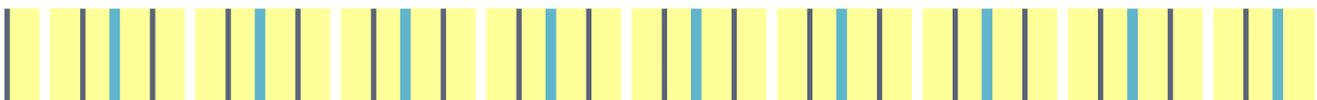
Alexa mentioned the possibility of creating a small booklet of how to paint different designs on rocks/rock art for those who wish to paint at home. She may work on this possibility in the future.

Discussion of the 2026 Riverside County fair from February 12 to March 1st. We need lots of participation for competitive case entries and noncompetition cases. Members can look on datefest.org in December to consider options for entry and all the details. Spread the word as we have 108 show cases to get filled and will need much help with this process.

The ballots were counted for the 2026 members coming onto the board, as well as the Rockhound of the Year Award. Fred Richard, Hoss (James) Brown, and Jackie Epps will join the board of directors in 2026. Pedro Velazquez was voted as the Rockhound of the Year for 2025. Congratulations to these members and many thanks for those going off after two years!

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Peggy Richard, for Judy Mifflin,
Secretary.



▶ October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 General Meeting 7pm, potluck 6pm	8	9	10	11 Shop Day Holiday Critters 8am - 12pm Signal Hill Library Gem Show
12 Signal Hill Library Gem Show	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Board Meeting 6pm	22	23	24	25 Shop Day 8am - 12pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	

▶ November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 General Meeting 7pm, potluck 6pm	5	6	7	8 Shop Day Critter Party 8am - 12pm
9 Field Trip with YVGMS See Fred.	10	11	12	13	14	15 Rock Sale 9am - 3pm
16	17	18 Board Meeting 6pm	19	20	21	22 Shop Day RSVP to Lou. 8am - 12pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Rockhound Humor!

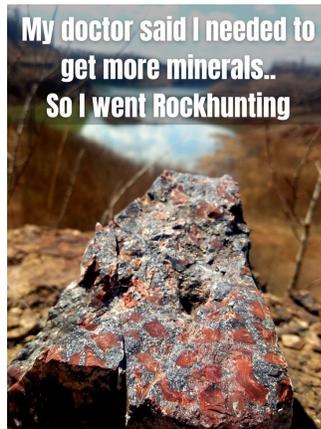
Why was the gemstone scared of his exams?

Because he thought he wasn't going topaz.

What happened to the rock after continuous hours of interrogation?

It finally cracked.

Where do the posh stones live?
Rockefeller Street.



What happens when you throw a stone at a phone?

It gets bricked.

What do you call an unpleasant pebble?

A rude-ite.

Why was the beach sad?

Because it had been shingle all its life.

FAIR 2026 Update - Display Cases

Start thinking about entering a competitive case of lapidary and rock related items you can display in showcases at the Riverside County Fair in February. Entry forms should be available mid-December through mid-January. Go to datefest.org for details. As you may know the Club runs a competition and large community display to inspire rock hounding to many communities. 108 showcases are available and it is the Club's goal to have them filled with displays for competition. Non competitive, or educational displays may be entered as well. All SGMGS Club members are encouraged to enter! For those who would like to display items from the Clubhouse, please speak to Peggy and that can be arranged as well. Items will be placed into showcases on February 8 and 9, 2026 with judging on February 10th. Fair dates will be here before you know it. More information will be given in upcoming meetings. Thank you! Peggy Richard

Board of Directors - 2025

President	Alexa Velazquez	C (442) 294-8916
First Vice-President	Tammy Cardona	H (951) 230-4966 (In charge of programs)
Assistant to First Vice-President	Lou Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
Second Vice-President	Jackie Misuraca	C (760) 250-3636 (In charge of picnic)
Assistant to Second Vice-President	Bob Zola	H (951) 845-5517
Secretary/Alternate	Judy Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
Treasurer	Peggy Richard	C (951) 963-6751
Director Christmas party	Helen Sapienzae	H (760) 507-7070
Bulletin Editor	Lance Albrecht	C (760) 641-6291
Gem Building Supervisor	Peggy Richard	C (951) 963-6751
Hospitality & Hostess	Helen Sapienza	H (760) 507-7070
Sunshine Report	Alexa Velazquez	C (442) 294-8916
P.O. Box/Alternate	Peggy & Fred Richard	C (951) 963-6751
Field Trip Chairman/Alternate	Fred Richard	H (316) 519-8505
	Tracy Albrecht	C (760) 641-8832
	John Scofield	C (951) 314-8486
CFMS Director/Alternate	Lou & Judy Mifflin	H (253) 261-5123
	Fred & Peggy Richard	C (951) 963-6751
Fair Chairman	Eric Mandeson	C (626) 290-4795

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society



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See us on the
Web! At
SGMGS.org

Upcoming Shows and Events

November 15, 2025, will be the Club Rock sale from 9am to 3pm.

This is an opportunity for members to sell their crafts as well.

It's Almost Time to "Jingle Bell ROCK!"

Mark your calendars for the Club Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

Doors open at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm. The location is Grace Lutheran Church, 1000 W

Wilson Street in Banning. Note this is a new location from previous years.

A delicious home cooked meal, lively entertainment and gift exchange will be added fun as we say thank you to the outgoing and welcome the new 2026 Club Board Members. All Club members and their guests are welcome. Sign up at the Club meeting or call Helen Sapienzae, event coordinator at 760/507-7070 to RSVP. You are asked to bring a potluck item to

contribute. Eric Mandeson and a singing elf will provide us singalong entertainment before a gift exchange. Men are to bring a gift for men and women for women, with an estimated value of \$20. The gift exchange is optional, and homemade items are welcome. This is a memorable event to enjoy and celebrate another great year with San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society!