San Gorgonio
Mineral & Gem Society
Pick & Shovel

2027 Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2026, and we have 2027 on the horizon. We are making plans for our involvement at the 2027 Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival once again. We are reaching out to groups to be in the Gem & Mineral building that we oversee to make it a special experience for fair goers coming through.

A big part of our involvement is promoting the opportunity for competition in our showcases and seeing that all the showcases are filled. A big thank you to all our wonderful members who have made an excellent contribution to this effort. Be thinking of items you have in your collection or things you have made that would fill a showcase. I will have information on the dates, cost, awards, and all entry options at the upcoming meeting. The site is open now to look at and place your entries any time before January 18, 2027, at 11:30 pm.

-Peggy Richard, Treasurer
The site for entries is https://compete.getfairos.com

Mineral of the Month!

(by Jonny K, Grimball Jewelers)

Opal is famous for its dazzling flashes of color that seem to dance across the surface of the stone.

Unlike most gemstones, opal contains water within its structure and its unique play of color comes from tiny silica spheres that interact with light.

No two opals are exactly alike, making each one a little piece of natural artwork. Even its name has a colorful history: the word “opal” is thought to come from an ancient Greek word meaning “to see a change in color.”



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Volume 9 Issue 9

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Oct. 6, 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Cardona. SGMGS Secretary

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 p.m., by Vice President, Judy Mifflin

After the Pledge of Allegiance, we welcomed our guest: Debbie Baldwin

FIELD TRIPS:

Nov. 6 - 8 is the Ridgecrest club's show and tour of their Rainbow Ridge agate jasper claim. If you would like more info on this, you can contact Fred.

The San Diego Mineral and Gem Society is having their Gem show, Nov 7th, and 8th. For more information on this go to www.sdmg.org.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our annual Christmas party is coming up on December 1st. It will be at the same location as last year's party. Grace Lutheran Church in Banning. The signup sheet will be available at the next general meeting.

It is time once again to start preparing for the upcoming Date Festival. We need everyone's help with the preparation. We need competition cases and non-competitive cases as well. We also need lots of "critters". The fair is our "big money" maker, so every club member needs to step up and pitch in!

Our show and tell this month was from Carrie Kamura, who gave an interesting presentation on gold processing.

Dr. Stephenie presented this month's program. One part of a three-part series on "Caves, Rocks and Stones".

Congratulations to Patty Sanchez for winning this month's raffle prize.

This month's "Shop Days" are Saturday, October 10th 8 - noon, and Saturday, October 24th 8 - noon.
Next Board meeting is Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 p.m.
Next General meeting is Tuesday, November 3rd, potluck at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Birthday Wishes to these Club Members!



November

Alexa Velazquez on the 1st
Patty Sanchez on the 1st
Tammy Cardona on the 6th
Amy Kennedy on the 8th
Judy Mifflin on the 12th
Eric Mandeson on the 15th
Pedro Valazquez on the 15th
Anjanette Lomas on the 22nd
Adrian Hamack on the 22nd
Hoss Brown on the 27th

December

Harlan Hancock on the 13th
Sonia Zola on the 15th
Rhonda Smoot on the 19th
Peggy Richard on the 21st
Fred Richard on the 23rd
Dywanna Trimble on the 24th
Carrie Kamura on the 28th
Harvey Marcell on the 29th



Oct. 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Cardona. SGMGS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m., by Vice President, Judy Mifflin

Board members in attendance: Peggy & Fred Richard, Lou Mifflin, Judy Mifflin (via phone), Helen Sapienzae (via phone), and Tammy Cardona.

Treasurers report given by Peggy Richard, and was accepted and approved by the board.

SUNSHINE REPORT:

Helen is still recovering from a stroke she had a few months ago. She says she is getting better every day. Fred is doing well after having a melanoma removed from his shoulder.

NEW MEMBER:

The board approved the application for membership from Carrie Kamura. Welcome Carrie, we are delighted to have you.

FIELD TRIP:

November 7th and 8th is the field trip to Ridgecrest which we have discussed previously. For information, contact Fred.

SHOP REPORT:

The board voted and approved the future electrical work for the saw room.

The revised shop fees and costs, which the board approved previously, are now in effect. The new list is posted in the club house and in the shop buildings outside.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board voted and approved a $150.00 donation for the CFMS Endowment fund.

The board counted the ballots and approved the new board members. Congratulations to Harvey Marcell, Kyle Goodnight, Tom Olivas and Tracey Albrecht. Welcome aboard!

Also, this year's Rockhound of the Year is Lou and Judy Mifflin. Congratulations to you!

OLD BUSINESS:

A shout out to Jackie and Hoss for putting together a great Welcome Back Party. They did a terrific job. We were super excited to have Loretta Rinaldi join us. Loretta is our oldest honorary member, 102 years young!

The Date Festival is fast approaching. We need to fill 102 cases so please start thinking about entering. For information about cases, contact Peggy.

We will be having a sign-up sheet for our Christmas party at the general meeting on November 3rd. Please contact Helen to let her know how many people you will have and what side dish you are bringing. The party is December 1st at the Grace Luteran Church in Banning.

Next Month's shop days: Saturday, November 14th, 8 - noon and Saturday, November 28, 8 - noon.

Event Calendar

November

Next General meeting is Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Potluck at 6:00 pm meeting at 7:00 pm

Next Board meeting is Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Next Month's shop days:
Saturday, November 14th, 8 - noon and
Saturday, November 28, 8 - noon

December

Annual Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at Grace Lutheran Church in Banning.

December's Board meeting is Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm

December's shop days:
Saturday, December 12, 8 - noon and
Saturday, December 26, 8 - noon

The Date Festival is approaching fast. Help with preparation is needed.



For Lapidary enthusiasts that are in possession of a big rock, maybe we can help. We can cut up to 15 inches high. Speak with Fred at (951) 963-6751.

Next General meeting is Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Potluck at 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Next Board meeting is Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a "double" meeting. The new board members are required to attend so we can decide which positions everyone will fill.

How to Kill an Organization

anonymous

- Don't come to meetings. If you come, be late. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think about coming.
- If you attend, find fault with the work of others.
- Ever accept an office; it's easier to criticize.
- Be angry if you are not appointed to a committee.
- If your opinion is asked, say nothing.
- Afterward, tell everyone how it should be done.
- Do no more than necessary, if a few people work tirelessly, complain that the group is being run by a clique.
- Don't tell the leader how the group can help you to achieve certain goals – but if it doesn't, quit coming.
- When you attend a meeting, vote for one thing then forget about it after you get home.
- Agree to everything at the meeting; disagree later.
- Get all the benefits your organization provides, but don't make a personal contribution.
- Talk about cooperation but never practice it.

(From CFMS Newsletter November 2026)

(Welcome back party)



Board of Directors

President
Judy Miffin (253) 261-5123

First Vice-President
Judy Mifflin (253) 261-5123

Assistant to First Vice-President
Lou Mifflin (253) 261-5123

Second Vice-President
Jackie Epps (951) 223-0807

Assistant to Second Vice-President
James "Hoss" Brown (760) 409-8779

Secretary/Alternate
Tammy Cardona (951) 230-4966

Treasurer
Peggy Richard (951) 963-6751

Director Christmas party
Helen Sapienzae (760) 507-7070

Bulletin Editor
Lance Albrecht (760) 641-6291

Gem Building Supervisor
Peggy Richard (951) 963-6751

Hospitality & Hostess
Jackie Epps (951) 223-0807

Sunshine Report
Jackie Epps (951) 223-0807

P.O. Box/Alternate
Peggy & Fred Richard (951) 963-6751

Field Trip Chairman/Alternate
Fred Richard (316) 519-8505
Tracy Albrecht (760) 641-8832

CFMS Director/Alternate
Helen & Sam Sapienzae (253) 261-5123
Jackie Epps & Hoss Brown (951) 963-6751

Fair Chairman
Eric Mandeson
C (626) 290-4795

Focus on Eye Protection

(by Joe Goetz, CFMS)

Eye protection is always important, whether at home at the club workshop or any activity. If at the club shop and you are working with stone, there is the possibility of a stone chip or coolant spray hitting you in the face.

There are three ways to protect yourself which are:

- Safety Glasses,
- Goggles,
- Face Shield.

Older safety glasses used tempered-glass lenses and were available with prescriptions, eliminating the need to wear protective eyewear over regular glasses. Today, most people use polycarbonate lenses, which are also available in prescription versions. Polycarbonate blocks UV rays, helping reduce exposure associated with cataract risk. Tinted, wraparound models can serve as sunglasses while limiting light entering from the sides.

Clear polycarbonate lenses also block UV rays, making them useful on field trips. Check the product's UV-protection rating.

Goggles can be worn alone or over prescription glasses. Models with polycarbonate lenses also provide UV protection, though their fit may restrict your view.

Goggles may cost less than safety glasses, although their appearance can be less discreet on field trips.

Face shields add protection against stone chips, coolant spray, and cleaning-product splashes, but must be worn over appropriate safety glasses or goggles—not instead of them. Coverage varies: some models extend to the neck and sides of the head. Prices vary, and options may include UV protection and anti-fog coatings that help keep the visor clear.

Choose protection suited to the task and its hazards and follow the manufacturer's instructions.



On The Lighter Side



Why was the gemstone scared for his exams?
He thought he wasn't going topaz.

Why can't you purchase minerals by the gallon?
They only come in quartz.

Which rock group is composed of four men who can't sing?
Mount Rushmore.

Why was the coal's alibi suspicious?
Because it wasn't crystal clear.

Why doesn't the government care about laborers who collect minerals in caves?
They're only miner issues.



San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society

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Phone: 951-963-6751

Place address label here

Pick & Shovel

See us on the Web!
At SGMGS.org

How to Identify, Clean and Display What You Find.

(from Rockhounding.org)

Half the fun of rockhounding is figuring out what you've found. Basic mineral identification uses a handful of physical properties that you can test at home without any special equipment.

- Hardness: Test by scratching with your fingernail, a coin, or a knife blade
- Streak: Drag the mineral across an unglazed porcelain tile to see the color of the powder
- Luster: Observe how light reflects — metallic, glassy, pearly, dull?
- Color: A starting point, but not always reliable on its own
- Crystal form: What shape are the crystals? Cubic, hexagonal, prismatic?

Freshly collected rocks often look dull because they're coated in clay, dirt, or mineral staining. Cleaning reveals their true character

- Soap and water + a stiff brush: Works for most dirt and loose clay
- Soaking in water: Softens stubborn clay coatings
- Oxalic acid: Removes iron staining from quartz and other minerals (use with gloves)
- Vinegar: Dissolves calcite coatings from fossils and other specimens

For display, simple wooden display boxes, museum putty, acrylic stands, and labeled specimen trays are popular options. Always label specimens with the mineral name and where you found it.