San Gorgonio
Mineral & Gem Society
Pick & Shovel

October 2026
Volume 9 Issue 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 2
BIRTHDAY WISHES
PAGE 2
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 3
EVENT CALENDAR
PAGE 3
BOARD OF DIRECTIORS
PAGE 4
PALM SPRINGS, TAHQUITZ CREEK FALLS
PAGE 4 & 5
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE
PAGE 5
SHIPROCK PALM SPRINGS
PAGE 6

Gemstones During the Founding of Our Country

July 4 may be behind us, and communities across the nation continue to host unique and exciting ways to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary throughout this Semiquincentenntial year. Enjoy this article on the providence of jewelry in America in the 1770s.

Following the Revolutionary War, newly independent Americans began to trade with other parts of Europe grew and soon America was filled with new ideas. These new ideas and designs were filled with symmetry, geometry, and delicate ornamentation. Americans embraced the style and made it their own. It has become known as "The Federal Period."



Topaz was a favorite gemstone during this period, especially yellow-colored topaz. Although citrine was sometimes substituted for topaz, whether by accident or design, it was the yellow-colored gem set in yellow gold that was desirable. Amethyst and aquamarine also enjoyed widespread regard.

The fine art of miniature painting had evolved into a jewelry necessity by the early part of the nineteenth century. Having the portrait of a loved one to keep you company during long absences became significant. New materials such as ivory emerged on which the portraits could be painted.



The practice of exchanging eye miniatures, a miniature portrait of only an eye and recognizable only to the recipient, grew in popularity.



In addition, gentlemen wore decorative buttons, buckles (at the neck and knees and on their shoes), and watches with seals, fobs, chains, and keys. They carried decorative silver swords and gold-topped canes. Ladies usually counted pearl necklaces and beads of jet, amber, bone, coral, glass, and jasper among their belongings. In addition, hair combs of ivory and tortoise were popular along with rings and brooches.

Don't forget your



Sept. 1, 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Cardona. SGMGS Secretary

The meeting was brought to order at 6:59 p.m., by Jackie Epps.

The Gem and Mineral show in Joshua Tree is coming up Sept. 30th thru Oct. 4th. Some of our members will be vendors out there with lots of great stuff to sell. Flyers with more details are available at the clubhouse.

SUNSHINE REPORT:
Sam and Helen Sapienzae are doing well and will be returning at the end of October. We are looking forward to seeing them again.

FIELD TRIPS:
Scheduled for Nov. 6-8 is a field trip to Ridgecrest. There are flyers available, with more details at the clubhouse, or you can call Fred.

OLD BUSINESS:
Our "Welcome Back" party is Saturday, September 26th at 1:30pm at the clubhouse. There will be a silent auction and a game of "Rock Bingo" following the potluck. If you have something to donate for the silent auction, please bring it with you. The club will provide the chicken. Members are to bring a side dish or dessert.

Please turn in your ballots before the October board meeting. If you have not received a ballot, contact Peggy. We will also have extra ballots at the club house.

Show and Tell was given by James "Hoss" Brown

This month's program was about the geology of the Grand Canyon by Dr. Stephenie.

Congratulations to Rhonda Smoot for winning this month's raffle prize.

This month's "Shop Days" are Saturday Sept. 12th 8 – noon, and Saturday Sept. 26th 8 – 11am.

Next Board meeting is Saturday Sept. 26th (before the party) at 11:00am.

Next General meeting is Tuesday, October 6th. Potluck at 6:00pm followed by the meeting at 7pm.

Birthday Wishes to these Club Members



September

Tom Olivas on the 7th
Donna Taber on the 15th
Pat Neville on the 28th

October

Kyle Goodnight on the 1st
Victoria Melton on the 4th
Mike Brauer on the 5th
Mary Beck on the 15th

Sept. 26, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Cardona. SGMGS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m., by Vice President, Judy Mifflin. Board members in attendance: Peggy & Fred Richard, Lou Mifflin, Judy Mifflin (via phone) James Brown, Jackie Epps, Helen Sapienzae (via phone) and Tammy Cardona.

SUNSHINE REPORT: Helen Sapienzae says she has begun to get some vision back in her right eye. She suffered a stroke earlier in the year and lost vision in her right eye.

TREASURERS REPORT: for June, July and August, was given by Peggy Richard, and was accepted and approved by the board.

SHOP REPORT: Lou and Fred have been working on the equipment that was donated by Harlan and Janet Hancock and said it is up and running.
THANK YOU, HARLAN & JANET! Lou and Fred are also trying to work up a proposal to install a dedicated circuit to our saw room and will have the board vote on it as soon as they are done.

FIELD TRIP: November 6th - 8th the Ridgecrest club is having their annual show which includes a field trip out to their claim which has the Rainbow Ridge Jasper Agate. Fred and Peggy will be going up to camp on the 6th through the 9th because there are a lot of different sights to see and collect up in that area. For more info call Fred. Tracy has two field trips in the works. One to Garnet Hill near Palm Springs and the other to Indio Hills. More info on those when we have it.

OLD BUSINESS: If you have not turned in your ballot, be sure to do so by the October general meeting which is on the 6th. Every member needs to vote.

NEW BUSINESS: This year's Christmas party will be on Tuesday, December 1st. at the same location as last year. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next couple of general meetings. More info as the date approaches.
If you are interested in entering a competitive case at next year's fair you can find the information you need at:
https://compete.getfairos.com
We are looking forward to our program coming up at the October general meeting. Dr. Stephenie will be talking about Caves, Rocks and Stones.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Next Month's shop days: Saturday October 10th 8 - noon and

Saturday October 24th 8 - noon.

Next General meeting is October 6, 2026. Potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. Next Board meeting is October 20, at 6 p.m.

Event Calendar

October

The Gem and Mineral show in Joshua Tree is coming up Sept. 30th thru Oct. 4th. Some of our members will be vendors out there with lots of great stuff to sell. Flyers with more details are available at the clubhouse.

Please make sure that you turn in your ballots by the October General Meeting.

If you are interested in entering a competitive case at next year's fair you can find the information you need at: https://compete.getfairos.com

October Shop Days are:
Saturday October 10th 8 - noon and
Saturday October 24th 8 - noon.

November

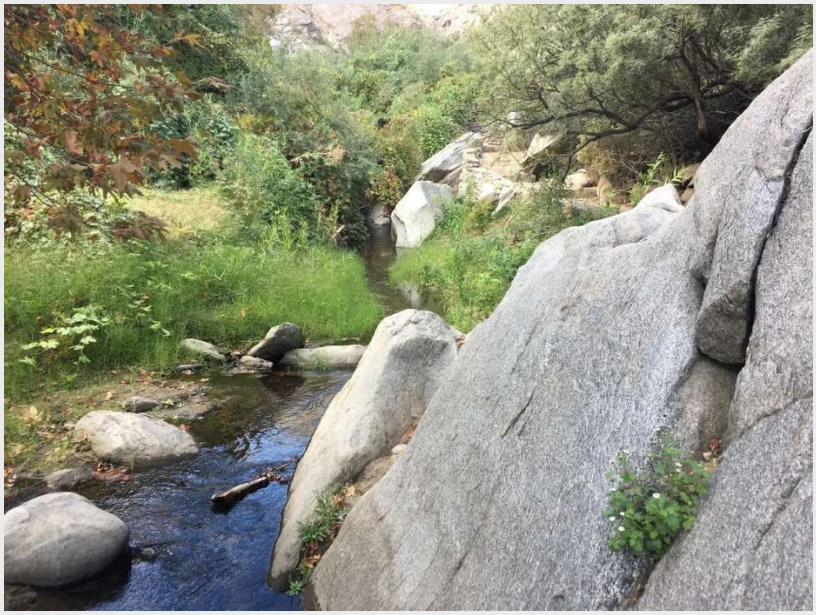
Nov. 6-8 is a field trip to Ridgecrest. There are flyers available, with more details at the clubhouse, or you can call Fred.

Tracy has two field trips in the works. One to Garnet Hill near Palm Springs and the other to Indio Hills. More info on those when we have it.

November Shop Days are:
Saturday October 7th, 8 - noon
Saturday October 21st, 8 – noon

Do You Know Where This Is?





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

From Atlas Obscura: Palm Springs Tahquitz Creek Falls

At the western edge of Palm Springs, a rugged desert canyon trail leads to a waterfall at the base of the San Jacinto Mountains.

The San Jacinto Mountains, an upthrust fault block resulting from the San Andreas fault system, rise abruptly east of the Los Angeles basin. With a high point at San Jacinto Peak (10,804 feet/3,294 meters), the range is tall enough to intercept the moisture coming from the Pacific, such that the higher elevations support forests and even a winter snow cap. However, this also causes a rain-shadow desert on the eastern side of the range. The mountain precipitation feeds several perennial streams that drain to the east, of which one of the largest is Tahquitz (pronounced TAH-keets) Creek.

The creek drops steeply down the eastern front of the range through a spectacular canyon, from which it formerly flowed out into the desert where the city of Palm Springs now sits. As with any desert creek, its water was of paramount importance for wildlife and the local human population.

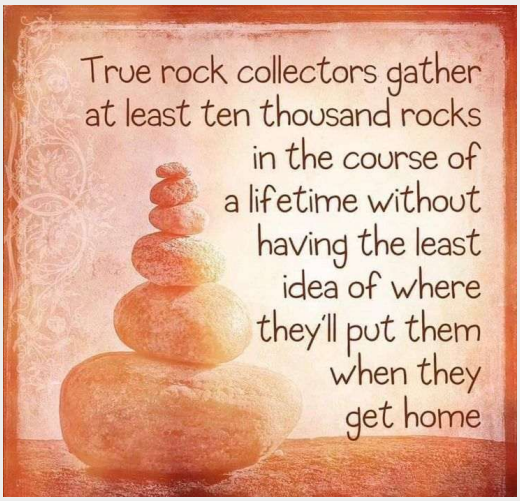
Near the base of the range, where its grade flattens out, the creek flows over a picturesque waterfall some 60 feet high that can be reached by a footpath. The path runs about 1.8 miles through a scenic desert canyon with an altitude gain of 350 feet. The level is moderate and should be within the capabilities of most hikers. Some rock art is also visible. The creek and falls both lie within the Agua Caliente Cahuilla Reservation and the tribe sells hiking permits.

Tahquitz, in the local Native American lore, was a malevolent spirit that dwelled in the mountains.

From Palm Springs take West Mesquite Avenue all the way west, where it will make a right-angle bend north and after about 0.1-mile end at a set of parking lots. The Tahquitz Visitor Center will be obvious to the west; head that way.

The Center is both the beginning of the trail and the place where you get the trail tickets. Adult tickets are $15 ($7 for children 6-12), US military is free. Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the trail. The trail is open daylight hours only and is only open Friday-Sunday in the summer months.

On The Lighter Side



You might be a rockhound if…

The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.

You can find Quartzsite on a map in less than 5 seconds.

You are thinking about giving out rocks for Halloween.

The rock pile in your garage is over your head.

You watch the scenery in movies instead of the actors.



San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 424
Banning 92220
Phone: 951-963-6751

Place address label here

Pick & Shovel

See us on the Web!
At SGMGS.org







Shiprock, Palm Springs

A 250-million-year-old rock formation has earned a rather unique nickname.

By TJ Muehleman of Atlas Obscura

For visitors riding along HWY 111 West about four miles outside of downtown Palm Springs, they may notice a rock feature that appears out of place. Shiprock gained its name from its uncanny resemblance to a Spanish galleon. Shiprock formed at the bottom of a prehistoric tropical sea over 250 million years ago. Layers of silt and decaying sea organisms were compressed, heated, and slowly moved northward for thousands of miles along the west side of the San Andreas Fault.

During this process, the rock was uplifted, tilted, and exposed by the up-thrusting granite of Mount San Jacinto. The rock feature is a great place to visit with family as it's easily accessible from the road. It also allows visitors to wander around the fields all the way up to the base of San Jacinto Mountain.