



## A Lifestyle of Digging for Opals

Have you ever dreamed about digging in your own mine claim? At the April meeting Club members learned about opals, their formation and special conditions for lapidary applications from a member's own claim. We enjoyed a hands-on presentation by Vince Wolf whose family digs for specialty opals in the Royal Peacock Mine. This mine has limited buy-in opportunities for serious rockhounds.

In the northwest corner of Humboldt County the site offers a unique opportunity for finding black opals, where

common silica treated under heat and pressure became fire opals, and eventually Virgin Valley opals. Virgin Valley opals prevail over others with vivacious color. The famous 'black' opal is native there as well as moss opal, lemon opal, crystal, and white opal. In addition, an exclusive feature is found in Virgin Valley fluorescent opals, which fluoresce green when illuminated with a black light.

An insight to the past was staged with more than a dozen items from Vince's collection. From petrified wood to a

mystery molar, not only were the fossils impressive, but they also had opalescent features throughout them.

Though Vince and Alicia have ownership in the mine, Royal Peacock Opal Mine welcomes guests to try their luck at mining their own opals. \$190/day/person to work on a bankside, and less fees to go through tailings. It is hard work; however, it may offer the best chance to find a noteworthy opal.

Big thanks to Vince for the informative session!



Royal Peacock Mine Opal

## Diamond is the Birthstone for April

Diamond is the birthstone of April. It is the world's most popular gem. Many people enjoy diamond because of its brilliance and because of its dispersion. Dispersion is the ability of a gem to act as a prism and separate light

into its component colors - as shown by the diamond in the accompanying photo.

Diamond is one of the most expensive birthstones. When cost is a concern, many people opt for a smaller stone. Oth-

ers decide to purchase a more affordable lab-grown diamond. If cost is not an issue, then a beautiful colored diamond might be possible!



### San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society

Volume 76, Issue 4

April/May 2023

#### *Our Mission Statement*

The San Geronio 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.

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## SGMGS — April 4, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

After having Bert bless our meal, everyone enjoyed the pizza, salad and fellowship, and especially the fabulous cakes made by Helen Sapienzae.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:45 p.m., by President, Peggy Richard.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fred.

Lee gave the monthly treasurers report.

The minutes from March 2023 general meeting were approved.

### SUNSHINE REPORT:

Glad that Mike Brauer was here as he waits to hear from the doctors. Also, Emma is recovering after her surgery and doing well.

### FIELD TRIPS:

April 15th & 16th- Cady's Mountains. We will be joining Roadside Rockhound, who is leading the trip. For information regarding this trip visit his website or Facebook page.

### OLD BUSINESS:

A special write up in the CFMS bulletin about our 2022 "Rockhounds of the year" Bob & Sonia Zola.

Congratulations once again to them.

This year's dues need to be paid by the end of April. Keep in mind that the dues along with the shop fees, donations and income from the rock sales and fair are essential.



The property tax, utilities, insurance, and other costs add up quickly. This is why every club member needs to help when they can.

The Spring Rock Sale is Saturday, April 22nd, 9 - 3. Help is needed by all. If you are interested in being a vendor, give Peggy a call.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Thank you to Becky Pike's family for donating the jewelry making beads and misc. She was a gifted artist and we miss her.

If anyone is interested in teaching a class on jewelry making or anything else associated with gems and minerals, please give Peggy a call.

Applications for Camp Paradise are now available through the CFMS website.

This month's program was a very interesting presentation about Virgin Valley Opals, by Vince Wolf. He shared lots of information about opal mining and passed around several specimens that he has personally collected.

Congratulations to Adriana Hammack for winning this month's raffle prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next Board meeting is April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The next General meeting is May 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Cardona, Secretary.

## Birthday Wishes!

### April

Bonnie Lynk on the 14th.  
Robert Norberg on the 16th.  
Tanya Sauer on the 19th.  
Becky Dugan on the 22nd.  
Dorothy Worthington on the 23rd.  
Sandra Hernandez on the 27th.

### May

Samuel Sapienzae on the 1st.  
Sylvia Mower on the 1st.  
Emma Couveau on the 2nd.  
Sabrina Miller on the 4th.  
Pete Gould on the 17th.  
Bert Grisham on the 23rd.  
Debra Brauer on the 25th.  
Karen Fitzpatrick on the 28th.  
Sheryn Beck on the 30th.  
Delvin Harbor on the 30th.



"The day is all yours — have fun!"

Happy Birthday!

## SGMGS—Board Meeting Minutes April 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m., by President, Peggy Richard

Board members in attendance: Lee Grisham, Fred & Peggy Richard, Pete Gould, Bob Fitzpatrick, Robby Rinaldi and Tammy Cardona. Also present was Bert Grisham.

March minutes accepted and approved by the board.

Treasurers report, given by Lee Grisham, was accepted and approved by the board.

Our annual donation of \$100 was approved by the board to be sent to the American Cancer Society.

### FIELD TRIP:

Tentative plans for a combined field trip with OBMS on May 20th. More info available soon.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Spring Rock Sale will be this coming Saturday, April 22nd. 9-3. We are depending on all of the club members that signed up to help. Even if you haven't sign up we can certainly use your help.

Starting in May, we will now have 2 extra shop days. We are hoping this will help some members utilize our many machines we have available to use. Also, it will allow for more critters to be painted and upkeep for the club house. Please use these shop days to support your club. The shop days are: the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month 1 - 5p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays 8 a.m.- 12.

### NEW BUSINESS:

We are hoping to have a jewelry making class on Saturday, May 27th. The sign up sheet will be available at the next general meeting.

We are looking into getting a PayPal account for the club or something similar because of the amount of sales we lost because we only take cash. We will let everyone know what we decide soon.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

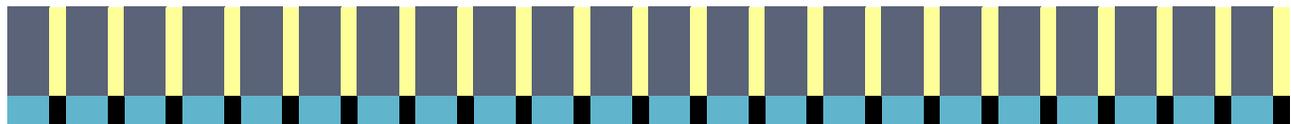
Next months shop days: Tuesday May 2, and May 16, 1 - 5 pm and Saturday May 13, and 27, 8 - noon.

Next General meeting is May 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Board meeting is May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Cardona, Secretary.



## Emerald is the Birthstone for May

Emerald is the birthstone for the month of May. It is the world's most popular green gem. It is the green variety of the mineral beryl. Emeralds range in color from slightly yellowish green, to pure green, to slightly bluish green. Pure green emeralds are the most popular and valuable.

Emerald can be a costly gem, and it often lacks the high

level of clarity that many people desire. For that reason, lab-grown emeralds have become a popular option in birthstone jewelry. Lab-grown emeralds can be purchased at a small fraction of the cost of a natural emerald of similar size, color, and clarity. The buyer and the recipient of an emerald birthstone gift might be pleased with this option.



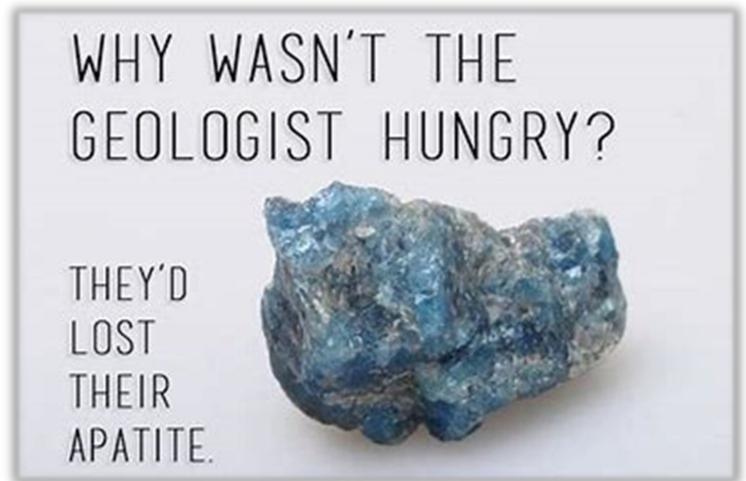
*Pure Green Emerald*

## Only for Rockhounds

May the quartz be with you!

Old lapidarians never die,  
they just recrystallize

We Dig Mother Earth



## Top Ten Signs You Might Be A Rockhound...

1. You have ever had to respond “yes” to the question, “What have you got in here, rocks?”
  2. You have ever taken a 22-passenger van over “roads” that were really intended for cattle.
  3. You have ever found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn’t really a weapon.
  4. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
  5. You have ever hung a picture using a Brunton as a level and your rock hammer as your hammer.
  6. Your collection of beer cans and/or bottles rivals the size of your rock collection.
  7. You consider a “recent event” to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
  8. Your photos include people only for scale, and you have more pictures of your rock hammer and lens cap than of your family.
  9. You have ever been on a field trip that included scheduled stops at a gravel pit and/or a mullock heap.
  10. You have ever uttered the phrase “have you tried licking it”
- And the #1 sign you might be a Rockhound:

## Board of Directors—2023

President	Peggy Richard	C (951) 963-6751	
First Vice-President	Bob Fitzpatrick	H (951) 845-3051	(In charge of programs)
Assistant to First Vice-President	Robert Rinaldi	C (951) 306-7104	
Second Vice-President	Fred Richard	C (316) 519-8505	(In charge of picnic)
Assistant to Second Vice-President	TBD		
Secretary/Alternate	Tammy Cardona	C (951) 320-4966	
Treasurer	Lee Grisham	H (909) 790-8677	
Director/Assistant	Angel Gould	C (909) 800-7155	(In charge of Christmas party)
	Pete Gould	C (909) 800-7155	
Bulletin Editor	Lance Albrecht	C (760) 641-6291	
Gem Building Supervisor	Fred Richard	C (316) 519-8505	
Hospitality & Hostess	Lee Grisham	H (909) 790-8677	
Sunshine (Near Beaumont)	Lee Grisham	H (909) 790-8677	
P.O. Box/Alternate	Lee Grisham	H (909) 790-8677	
Field Trip Chairman/Alternate	Fred Richard	H (316) 519-8505	
	Tracy Albrecht	C (760) 641-8832	
CFMS Director/Alternate	Roger Thompson	H (760) 902-5340	
	Judy Thompson	H (760) 902-5340	
Fair Chairman	Mike Brauer	H (951) 349-8423	

# ▶ April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 General Meeting 6pm, Clubhouse	5	6	7	8 Shop Day 8am-12pm
9 Easter Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15 Field Trip to South Cady Mtns.
16 Field Trip optional day 2	17	18 Board Meeting, 6pm, Clubhouse	19	20	21	22 Rock Sale 9am-3pm Volunteers Needed
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# ▶ May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Shop Day 1-5pm General Meeting 6pm, Clubhouse	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Shop Day 8am-12pm
14	15	16 Shop Day 1-5pm Board Meeting 6pm, Clubhouse	17	18	19	20 Tentative Field Trip
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Shop Day & Jewel- ry class 8am-12pm
28	29	30	31			

# San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society



50171 Ramona Street  
Cabazon, CA 92230  
Phone: 951-963-6751

*Place address label here*

## *Pick & Shovel*

See us on the  
Web! At  
SGMGS.org

## What to Use for Carrying Specimens and Equipment

Take these items to use to carry and transport your newly found specimens from the site to your home. For starters you can probably find some items already in your garage or home closet. Or, order one from tool resource sites:

- **Bucket** - A bucket is a good option for containing multiple specimens. You can prepare buckets of different sizes. Get durable ones that can handle heavy loads.
- **Small boxes and tubes** - These containers come in handy when packing small or delicate specimens. Also prepare different sizes of tubes, boxes, and other containers that can cater to assorted specimens.
- **Wrapping material** - Avoid cramming hard and fragile specimens together in one container to keep them from getting chipped or broken. Wrap them in newspaper or fabric so they don't jostle with each other during transport.



*Collecting Bag*



*Rock Buckets*

