



**San Gorgonio
Mineral & Gem
Society**

President's Message

Greetings from the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Thank you to all our members and others who worked so hard to help get our building ready for opening day. Also, a special thank you to those who painted rocks and made critters that we will sell during the Fair. In addition, we are so grateful for those who can come down and work with us once the fair opens. Our club is run by volunteers, and we must work together to succeed in this big endeavor.

This year we will be celebrating 77 years as a club and 75 years being involved in the Gem and Mineral Building at the Date Festival in Indio.

I hope we can make those who have gone before us proud of our efforts.

Sincerely,
Peggy Richard



SGMGS Booth at 2023 Date Fest
Photo by Peggy Richards

Date Festival Now & Then

The Fair started in 1921 to celebrate the annual date harvest in the Indio area. It was eventually named the Riverside County Fair and Coachella Valley Date Festival. In 1940 the original 40 acres expanded to include date grove on the fairgrounds. Presently, the fairgrounds cover 120 acres.

When World War II began, all fairs in California were halted. After the war it was reinstated, and an "Arabian Nights" theme was introduced. The covid pandemic shut down the Fair in 2021. The County Board of Supervisors approved in June 2022 a partnership with Pickering Events LLC to bring the Festival

back. Today, thanks to Club members who worked with Pickering we were able to sustain the Gem & Mineral building and its activities. With thousands of volunteer hours by Club members we promote the joy of rockhounding and execute our mission statement.

Volume 76, Issue 2
February/March 2023

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.

Inside this issue:

<i>General & Board meeting minutes</i>	2
<i>Old Business</i>	2
<i>New Business</i>	
<i>Birthday Wishes</i>	2
<i>What is a Cabochon?</i>	3
<i>On the Lighter Side</i>	4
<i>Event Calendar</i>	5
<i>Collecting</i>	6

SGMGS General & Board Meeting Minutes February 12, 2023

The meeting was held in the Gem and Mineral building at the Date Festival Fair Grounds, Indio, and was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Peggy Richard.

Board members in attendance: Lee Grisham, Fred & Peggy Richard, Angel & Pete Gould, Robby Rinaldi, and Tammy Cardona.

Lots of love and prayers for Becky Pike. She has had a rough time, one surgery down and possibly two more to go.

January minutes approved by the board.

Treasurers report given by Lee Grisham.

Upcoming shows:

March 10-12th, Stoddard Wells

March 17-19th Prime Cut, Victorville. (Some of our members will be vendors there)

March 18th Lake Elsinore show, Lake Elsinore

April 1 & 2nd, Vista show, Vista

For more info on these shows check their websites or you can call Peggy

Fred Richard and Mike Brauer, Building supervisor and Show Chairman, gave some last minute details regarding the fair: Always be very careful around all of the equipment. If you hear or see something that doesn't seem right be sure to speak up.

There will always be someone from the Board that can answer questions when you are in the booth.

We are looking forward to a great fair. Be safe and have fun. If we can make enough of a profit, we will have a "pizza party" for our April general meeting as a Thank You!

OLD BUSINESS:

DUES ARE DUE! \$20 per person, \$30 per couple and \$40 for a family. 1/2 off for seniors over 75. Checks made out to SGMGS

If you ordered T-shirts or sweatshirts the order is in. Peggy will have them with her at the fair, or at the next meeting in Cabazon.

Camp Paradise, which Peggy had given a presentation about at the general meeting last October, will be held this year at the end of August. For more info contact Glenda Keil. (916) 448-8341

*Don't forget DUES ARE DUE!
\$20 per person, \$30 per couple
and \$40 for a family 1/2 off for
seniors over 75!*

NEW BUSINESS:

Our spring Rock Sale will be on April 22nd from 9-3. We have flyers available to pass out. If you would like to be a vendor contact Peggy. If you have any ideas for activities be sure to let Peggy know.

March 25th will be our Cabochon class so be sure to sign up at the next meeting or call Fred.

We still need ideas for field trips and classes! Let us know where you might enjoy going or what you would like to learn.

Because this year's fair is under new management, lots of details have been slow in coming but for those of you who are working at the fair, Peggy will be getting in touch with you prior to your scheduled time to let you know what is going on with parking etc...

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Thank you Eric Mandeson for your presentation of the "Tucson Gem & Mineral show".

Next General meeting is March 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Board meeting is March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Cardona, Secretary

Birthday wishes!

February

Scott Naples on the 2nd.

Jean Younger on the 16th.

Sarah Higgins on the 17th.

Bob Fitzpatrick on the 21st.

Jackie Misuraca on the 23rd.

March

Dennis Armatis on the 5th.

Tracy Albrecht on the 9th.

Wow! Quite a large group! Happy Birthday to these club members!

"Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed." — Charles Schulz



What is a Cabochon?

by beadclublounge.com

If you've heard the word "cabochon" before, I bet several questions came to mind afterward.

First, what is a cabochon? How do you even pronounce the word properly? And how do you use cabochons for jewelry making?

Below, you'll find all the answers to these common questions and more. Here's everything you need to know about cabochons.

Historically, a cabochon — also referred to as a cab — is a gemstone that has been shaped and polished instead of faceted. These stones typically have a flat side and one domed side.

Before, I go any further, let's address the elephant in the room. How do you pronounce the word "cabochon"?

It has French origins and the way it's pronounced goes like this: Ka-bow-shawn. If you're still struggling, just call it cab for short.

Cabochons are usually cut from a gemstone slice or other materials using a calibrated stencil template or in freeform shapes. They are then ground

into shape using grinding disks or belts coated with silicone carbide or diamond dust.

Nowadays, cabochons are made of more than just gemstones. You can find ceramic, porcelain and even wooden ones.

The cabochon shape varies and is available in all sorts of geometric and asymmetrical cuts. One of the rarest, and most desirable, is the sugarloaf cabochon. It looks like a pyramid, having four sides, a flat base and rounded tip.

The shape of the cab doesn't matter, though. What's most important, is the flat side which allows for you to attach it to jewelry.

Cabochons make beautiful focal points for jewelry. They're typically used to make pendants and rings.



Club member Terri making a cabochon. Below, petrified palm



Save the Date!

March 25th Cabochon class.

Be sure to sign up at the next meeting or call Fred to RSVP



Spheres

Spheres are basically divided into two groups. The first group of spheres are mass produced, mostly in foreign countries. The second and most desirable group of spheres, also the most expensive group, are handmade spheres. Making one of these spheres is a labor of love and takes many, many hours of work to produce a finished product sphere.

Typically, 40 to 50 hours of work to make a single sphere is not uncommon.

So, if you see two spheres that may look similar and one has a low price and one has a high price, the low price one is more than likely a production made sphere and the higher priced one is hand made.



Bert and Fred with the 2020 Date Fest Fair Sphere winner

Geology Jokes to Crack You Up

What did the volcano say to his wife?

I lava you!

What do you call a benzene ring with all iron atoms instead of carbon atoms?

A Ferrous wheel.

What did the gold say to the pyrite?

You're a fool and a fake.

What do you call an Irish gem that isn't real?

A sham-rock.

What do you get when you mix sulfur, tungsten and silver?

SWAg.

Why did the geologist take friends to the quarry for a geologists' outing?

So they would be boulder.



3 Rock Puns You Won't Take For Granite! —

Be patient with geologists—they all have their faults.

My rock collection has sedimental value.

Power to the pebble!



Board of Directors—2023

President

First Vice-President

Assistant to First Vice-President

Second Vice-President

Assistant to Second Vice-President

Secretary/Alternate

Treasurer

Director/Assistant

Bulletin Editor

Gem Building Supervisor

Hospitality & Hostess

Sunshine (Near Beaumont)

P.O. Box/Alternate

Field Trip Chairman/Alternate

CFMS Director/Alternate

Fair Chairman

Peggy Richard C (951) 963-6751

Becky Pike H (818) 653-3525

Bob Fitzpatrick C (951) 845-3051

Fred Richard C (316) 519-8505

Robert Rinaldi C (951) 306-7104

Tammy Cardona C (951) 320-4966

Lee Grisham H (909) 790-8677

Angel Gould C (909) 800-7155

Pete Gould C (909) 800-7155

Lance Albrecht C (760) 641-6291

Fred Richard C (316) 519-8505

Lee Grisham H (909) 790-8677

Lee Grisham H (909) 790-8677

Lee Grisham

Fred Richard H (316) 519-8505

Tracy Albrecht C (760) 641-8832

Roger Thompson H (760) 902-5340

Judy Thompson H (760) 902-5340

Mike Brauer H (951) 349-8423

(In charge of programs)

(In charge of picnic)

(In charge of Christmas party)

▶ February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 General/ Board meeting 10am	13	14	15	16	17 Date Fest Fair in Indio	18 Date Fest Fair in Indio
19 Date Fest Fair in Indio	20 Date Fest Fair in Indio	21 Date Fest Fair in Indio	22 Date Fest Fair in Indio	23 Date Fest Fair in Indio	24 Date Fest Fair in Indio	25 Date Fest Fair in Indio
26 Date Fest Fair in Indio	27	28				

▶ March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 General Meeting, 6pm at Clubhouse	8	9	10 Stoddard Wells Rock Show	11 Stoddard Wells Rock Show
12 Stoddard Wells Rock Show	13	14	15	16	17 Prime Cut, Victorville Rock Show.	18 Prime Cut Show. Lake Elsinore show
19 Prime Cut, Victorville. Rock Show	20	21 Board Meeting , 6pm at Clubhouse	22	23	24	25 Cabochon class
26	27	28	29	30	31	Save the Date! April 22 Rock Sale

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society



50171 Ramona Street
Cabazon, CA 92230

Phone: 951-963-6751

Pick & Shovel

See us on the
Web!
SGMGS.org

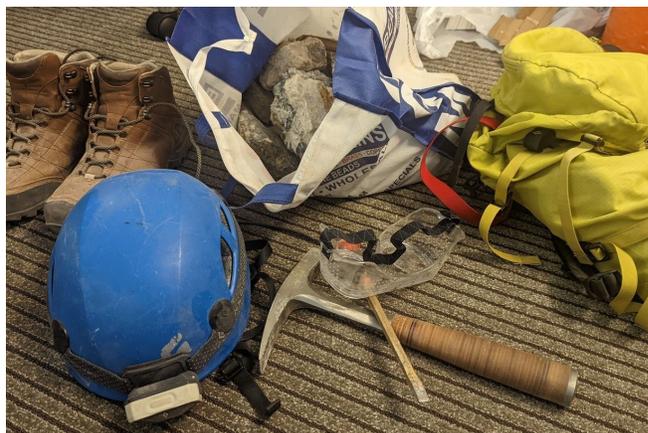
Rockhounding 101: Must-Have Tools for Safe Rock Collecting

A productive and convenient rockhounding trip requires thorough preparation. After identifying your desired rockhounding spot, you'll want to be armed with the necessary (and your preferred) tools that will help you collect rocks and minerals safely and with ease. **Here's the ultimate checklist of tools and equipment for beginner rockhounds**, suggested by Arthur Rocha of Stonebridge Imports.

- Goggles - This is the most basic safety equipment you must bring to every rockhounding trip. You'll need a reliable pair of safety goggles to protect your eyes from dust, chips, and metal fragments.
- Gloves - Wear a pair of work gloves to keep your hands clean and protect from possible cuts and scrapes when hammering through rocks.

- Hard hat - If your trip involves exploring caves, cliffs, and other areas where rock falls are possible, it's always best to wear a hard hat.

- Appropriate footwear - Wear boots with ankle support for treading on mountains with rough terrains, or waterproof boots for walking on lakes, rivers, and tailings.



Rockhounding Essentials

- First aid kit - For emergency purposes, always have a first aid kit ready for treating minor injuries.

In Next Newsletter!

- Suggested Ten Essential Tools for Rockhounding