



# Pick & Shovel

**San Gorgonio  
Mineral & Gem  
Society**

## President's Message

Greetings everyone, I hope that all the club members have had a great start of spring. I know that as the summer rolls around so do all the hiking excursions and programs start, so I wanted to remind everyone to make sure to stay hydrated. The spring time really makes me think of the suncatchers I've seen

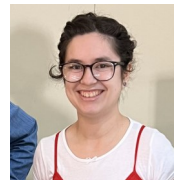
at many rock and gem booths, and I hope that it is a creation that we've all have gotten to see and make at some point. If not, I would definitely check out this fun craft Speaking of booth's, I am excited to see what you will be selling (if a vendor) for our upcoming rock sale. More information will be available at our

April General meeting, but I do hope many members are interested in participating!

Many blessings to you,

Sincerely,

Alexa Velazquez.



Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2026

### *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.

## Rockhound Rollback! 1999

By Anne Semanaris (Davila) & David Davila (Continued on back page)

We had just gotten a new global positioning satellite system receiver for Christmas. One of the exercises for new users is to try entering the Latitude and Longitude (L & L) of a known position and following the directional arrows on the GPS to arrive at the programmed location. Since David collected old topo maps, we compared them to later edition topos to see if there were mines in the old ones that had been eliminated

in newer editions. Digging out an old map of the Pedley Hills area sure enough there was an old mine that we hadn't visited before. Despite inclement weather, we decided to set out and find the mine and entered the L & L. With GPS receiver on the dashboard, we followed its arrow pointing the direction to go. Once on location, lo and behold, surrounded by new homes, was a pegmatite quarry.

Many pads and rudimentary rows had already been graded in the area. Dave and I were lucky; some of the exposed bedrock had been scraped. So, while wet and muddy, David observed an undiscovered type of Epidote. I was familiar with Epidote from Pedley Hills, as many local residents bring rocks and minerals to the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center to ask me what they are.

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## March 3, 2026 - General Meeting Minutes

Following a delightful potluck, the meeting was brought to order at 7:01 p.m., by President, Alexa Velazques. After the Pledge of Allegiance, we welcomed our guests: Vallerie Algea, Tom and Jean Olivas, Carrie Ramura, Hayden Dunn, Anna Papp and Patty Neville

Thank you to all of the members that helped with this years fair! This marked the 80th year our club participated in the fair! We made approximately \$15,000. This is how our club continues to operate through the year. Without all of your help it would not have been such a success.

### FIELD TRIPS:

Wednesday, March 25th, 9 a.m. we will be meeting at the Banning Art Gallery. Donation of \$10 per person is requested.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Our Spring "Rock Sale" will be Saturday, April 18th, 9 am - 3pm. (weather permitting) More info on this at the April meeting. We ask for help set-up, clean-up, and managing different areas of the sale.

The Banning Art Gallery has offered our club the chance to participate in their Child Outreach program, which is the

### Birthday Wishes!

#### *April*

Robert Norberg on the 16th.

Tanya Sauer on the 19th.

Tom Spencer on the 29th.

#### *May*

Sam Sapienzae on the 1st.

last Saturday of every month. If you are interested in helping Alexa put together something for this, let her know. They have also offered to give us a chance to have our own show at the gallery. This would be a chance to showcase what our club is about and display some of our winning cases. Contact Alexa if you would like to help with this or have ideas on how to set it up.

If anyone is interested in participating in the CFMS and AFMS zoom meetings contact Alexa.

### NEW BUSINESS:

CFMS has sent a survey to see if club members would be interested in attending a lapidary camp, here in Southern California, similar to Camp Paradise located in Northern California. Most of the members that were present, answered the survey questions during the meeting. If you would like more information contact Alexa.

At the February meeting we voted in favor of having a "Welcome back party" again, instead of our annual picnic, since many of our members are gone during the summer. The times and date will be decided later in the year.

Alexa will be conducting interviews of club members to be printed in the newsletter. If you would like to be interviewed let Alexa know.

CFMS has a youth program that allows children to earn badges (similar to Scouts) Contact Alexa for information.

Thank you, Dr. Stephanie for an informative program on Agates and Jasper!

Congratulations to our President, Alexa Velazquez. She will be graduating from college with her Bachelors in Social Sciences with a concentration in psychology degree. We are all so proud of you Alexa! Congratulations to Tracy Albrecht for winning this months raffle prize.

This months "Shop Days" are: Saturday March 14th, 8 - noon, and

Saturday March 28 th, 8 - noon.

Next Board meeting is Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Next General meeting / potluck is Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m.

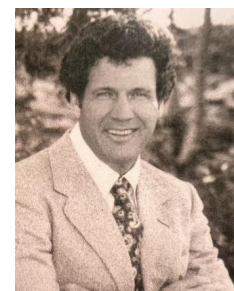
Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Cardona, Secretary.

### In Memorandum

Robert Rochelle

1939-2026



## March 17, 2026 - Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., by President, Alexa Velazquez

Board members in attendance: Alexa Velazquez, Peggy & Fred Richard, Helen Sapienzae, James Brown, Jackie Epps and Tammy Cardona.

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

### SUNSHINE REPORT:

Keep Sam and Helen Sapienzae in your thoughts and prayers. Sam has been declining in health lately and they have decided to move back to West Virginia. We will certainly miss them both.

Judy Mifflin has been going through some health issues but we are happy to report she is on the mend and doing well.

A very special Thank You to Bob Rochelle's Nephew, Dylan Deardorff and Will Edmundson who graciously donated \$250 to our club in memory of Bob.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

JOSHUA TREE SHOW is April 1st thru the 5th. Some of our members are vendors there so your support would be nice.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR June 10th - July 5th. Club members are invited to enter cases. Details at [SDFAIR.com/entry](http://SDFAIR.com/entry).

CFMS has started registration for CAMP PARADISE, being held in August. For info on this you can look on the CFMS website or

contact Peggy.

### NEW MEMBER:

The board accepted and approved two applications for membership. Welcome to the club Jean and Tom Olivas.

### FIELD TRIP:

We have the trip to The Banning Art Gallery coming up on Wednesday, March 25th. We will be meeting at the gallery around 9 am. The tour will start at 10 am A donation of \$10 is requested.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Our Rock Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. We ask for help set-up and clean-up, starting at 7am. The sale will be 9am - 2pm. We are working on having at least one food truck. If you want to be a vendor, please notify one of the board members. If you don't plan on being a vendor, the club will need your help with the booths. We will be selling and cutting geodes this year. Also we will have some spheres for sale.

Our "Welcome Back Party" is tentatively scheduled for September 26th. We will have a craft competition again with some rules: Limit of 2 pieces, handmade by the competitor, made with rocks. Also, a silent auction. If you have anything to donate for the silent auction, bring it any time prior to the party. More info as we get closer to that date.

### NEW BUSINESS:

We have been given the

opportunity to buy a 36" saw at a very good price. The largest saw we have now, which is in constant use, is a 24" saw. The board considered this and voted to purchase the 36" saw. If any club member would like to donate toward this purchase of the saw, it would be greatly appreciated. While on the topic of shop equipment, the board has approved raising the cost of shop equipment usage to a slightly higher rate. This increase will help to cover the expense of running the equipment. Prices will be posted at the club house for anyone that wants the info.

Jackie has name tags available for any member that would like one. The price is \$6.

We will be having a cabochon making class on April 25th. 9am-noon. There is a maximum of 4 or 5 people. If you are interested, you will need to sign up at the next general meeting on April 7th. Fred will be the instructor. In May, we will have a ceramic face class led by Hoss. More info on that and a June class as the time gets closer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next months shop days: Saturday April 11, 2026 8 - noon and

Saturday April 25, 2026 8 - noon.

Next General meeting is April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Tammy Cardona, Secretary



# ▶ April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Joshua Tree Show 9-5	2 Joshua Tree Show 9-5	3 Joshua Tree Show 9-5	4 Joshua Tree Show 9-5
5	6	7 General Meeting 7pm, potluck 6pm	8	9	10	11 Shop Day 8am -12pm
12	13	14 Rock Class 1:30pm Cabazon Library	15	16	17	18 Club Rock Sale!
19	20	21 Board Meeting 6pm	22	23	24	25 Shop Day & Cab Class 8am -12pm
26	27	28	29	30		

# ▶ May 2026

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

**FREE EVENT**

# Rock Sale!



**Saturday  
April 18  
2026  
9 am - 3 pm**

Raw and polished rocks and gems, fossils, craft supplies, unique jewelry. Grab bags, rock critters, bingo and a spinning wheel for kids!

Buy a geode and get it cut.



**SAN GORGONIO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY**

**50171 Ramona St, Cabazon, CA**  
for info call (951) 963-6751  
or visit [sgmgs.org](http://sgmgs.org)

**GREAT BARGAINS!**



# Joshua Tree

## GEM & MINERAL SHOW

JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND  
2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

**APRIL 1 - 5**  
WEDS. - SAT. 9 to 5  
SUNDAY 9 to 4

DOZENS OF AMAZING BOOTHS  
FOOD VENDORS - ENTERTAINMENT  
COME ONE & ALL FOR A DAY OR WEEKEND  
DISCOVERING EARTH'S AMAZING  
WONDERS!

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING FOR ALL**

Rocks

Fossils

Gemstones

Slabs

Equipment

Cabachons

Crystals

Spheres

Jewelry



Find us on facebook

LOOKING FOR VENDORS  
EMAIL US AT:  
joshuatreegemand  
mineralshow@aol.com

## Board of Directors - 2026

President	Alexa Velazquez	C (442) 294-8916
First Vice-President	Judy Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
Assistant to First Vice-President	Lou Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
Second Vice-President	Jackie Epps	C (951) 223-0807
Assistant to Second Vice-President	James "Hoss" Brown	H (760) 409-8779
Secretary/Alternate	Tammy Cardona	C (951) 230-4966
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	Jackie Epps	H (951) 223-0807
Sunshine Report	Jackie Epps	C (951) 223-0807
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
CFMS Director/Alternate	Helen & Sam Sapienzae	H (253) 261-5123
	Jackie Epps & Hoss Brown	C (951) 963-6751
Fair Chairman	Eric Mandeson	C (626) 290-4795

# 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

## Rockhound Rollback! 1999

All of the Epidote previously seen from the Pedley Hills range was commonly known as “fan epidote”, officially known as Clinozoizite. Knowing these bulldozers would be back, friends came to assist to collect this resource at risk. The digging wasn't as easy as the material was covered in Tremolite asbestos which left us beet red on our arms and faces from the irritation caused by this mineral to the skin. We dug as much as we could, to be sorted later. It was not long before the hole was buried under 6 feet of fill dirt and foundations for the new homes were being laid out. There was no way to dig this area any longer and it was time to sort, clean and prep what we had collected. We ended up with about 2000 lbs to pick through and found that sandblasting was the best way to remove the silicate covering. In the sorting process something very small and red caught my

## Continued from front page



eye. As it was unique among the specimens examined, I put it aside to show to other mineralogists and geologists. With further research I suspected it was Rutile, a mineral found in Titanite and enlisted the help of Bob Housley, someone I knew associated with Caltech and had services of a scanning electron microscope at his disposal. He confirmed it was Rutile and further stated that Pedley Hills

was not a previously known site or location for Rutile. At this point I contacted Sugar White, an internationally known micro photographer, who graciously donated her services and photographed the mineral. So using an old map and a new tool of the geologists, an important discovery was made, and the find was recently presented at the annual Pacific Coast Micro-Mounter Seminar at the San Bernardino County Museum. The excitement of uncovering a mineral previously undocumented in the Pedley Hills highlighted the value of combining traditional resources with modern technology. Not only did we add to the geological record, but we also brought attention to the rapidly changing landscape and the importance of preserving unique sites before they are lost to development.