

# Pick & Shovel

## President's Message

Hello,  
It's a pleasure to welcome everyone and share exciting news for the upcoming weeks. I want to express sincere gratitude to those who submitted their cases for the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival, both competitive and noncompetitive. If you have items for a noncompetitive entry, please reach out to Peggy Richard. Those entries make many visitors coming for the fair interested in learning more about gems and minerals, and inspire a new hobby. Thank you to those who will volunteer their time at the Fair. I know that it will be a great experience for everyone involved to not

only get together as a Club, but for all the fun moments we see others experience through the work that we put in. A lot of time and effort goes into getting everything ready for the Fair, including the rock painting, and it is wonderful to see the fruits of our labor. These painted rocks work wonders for children who are fascinated with our creativity. The Fair is a great opportunity to fund raise for the club and to recruit new members. Thousands of people visit the fair, and by seeing the rock cutting skills, talking with club members and sensing our joy, will become involved as well. I hope to see many of you there

having fun and enjoying your stay at the fairgrounds! I know that we will make this year's fair amazing, and this wouldn't be possible without the help of Club members. I would like to remind everyone that the next meeting will be held at the Fair. This will be a great opportunity to sit together and enjoy this change of pace as we get ready for the Fair.

Sincerely,  
Alexa Velazquez  
Club President



## Mineral of the Month: Fun Wulfenite Facts!

**First Discovery-** Wulfenite was first described in 1785 from the Bleiberg district in Austria, one of the most significant historic lead mining areas.  
**Named for Franz Xaver von Wulfen-** The mineral was named in honor of Franz Xaver von Wulfen, an Austrian mineralogist and botanist who made significant contri-

butions to the study of Carinthian minerals.  
**Misidentification-** Before its chemical composition was fully understood, wulfenite was mistaken for other lead-based minerals due to its association with lead ore deposits.  
**Role in Lead Mining-** Historically, wulfenite

was not mined for its own sake but was found as a byproduct in lead ore extraction. Its bright crystals intrigued miners but were not initially considered valuable.



**San Geronio  
Mineral & Gem  
Society**

Volume 8, Issue 1  
Jan/Feb 2025

### *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.

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>General Meeting Minutes</i>	2
<i>Birthday Wishes!</i>	2
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>Event Calendars</i>	4
<i>AFMS Code of Ethics</i>	5
<i>Board of Directors</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Shows and Events</i>	6

## January 7, 2025 - General Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 7:15pm

Flag Salute was led by Alexa Valasquez

Sunshine Report - Robby's mother, long-time member Loretta is in the hospital. Stephanie, John Scofield's wife is in the hospital. Our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery for both ladies.

Treasurer Report - Peggy is working the 2024 year end treasurers report and the budget for 2025. Information will be provided to members when the report is finalized.

Shop Report - upcoming shop days- 1/11/25 & 1/25/25, these dates also includes critter party and pizza. February is the Date Festival and there will be no shop days that month.

Board Meeting will be held on 1/21/25.

The Date Festival/Fair in Indio opens on 2/13/25 and runs through 3/2/25. Except for the first Monday (Presidents Day 2/17/25) The fair will be open Thursday/Sunday each week. Monday through Wednesday the fair will be closed.

Our club maintains a booth. Peggy Richard is the building supervisor. Club members are present throughout the fair.

Competitive display case sign up deadline is 1/19/25. Entries can be made online at DateFest.org.

We also are looking for noncompetitive cases. Contact Peggy.

Peggy will receive and distribute parking and entry passes. RV's will come to fair grounds on 2/4/25. The members staying on site will be cleaning, repairing, and painting the building and our booth.

On February 4th, the club house will load up for the fair. There is a cleanup day scheduled for members on 2/8/25. On 2/9/25 at 10am there is a general/board meeting at the Gem & Mineral building on the fairgrounds with a potluck directly following the meeting. Bring something delicious to share.

Presidents Report—Alexa thanked last year's board for their service to the club. She thanked everyone for participating in the voting for this years board.

Upcoming shows

January 1st through February 28th – Desert Gardens Rock, Gem & Mineral Show – Quartzite, AZ

January 2nd through February 28th – Prospectors Panorama – Quartzite, AZ

January 5th through January 14th – Tyson Wells Rock and Gem Show – Quartzite, AZ

January 17th through January 22nd – Pow Wow Gem & Mineral Show - Quartzite, AZ

Raffle winner Jackie Misuraca. Slab giveaway, everybody wins!

Program - Dr Stephanie gave a slide show and talk about Minerals & Health. Titanium is used for artificial bones because of how strong and light weight it is. Copper naturally kills germs. Rock salt is superior to sea salt because of ocean pollution sea salt contains micro plastics. This is just a tiny bit of the information provided. The program was educational and interesting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Mifflin,  
Secretary

## Birthday Wishes to these Club Members!

### January

Susana Velazquez on the 10th.

John Scofield on the 14th.

Marty Contreras on the 16th.



### February

Debbie Keret on the 2nd.

Jenie Wilson on the 17th.

Jackie Misuraca on the 23rd.

## January 25, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 8:05am

New & old business Jackie has been in the hospital for the past few days, Lance said that she is now home and resting. Stephanie Scofield has also been sick and awaiting treatment. Let us pray that both get better soon.

Alexa wanted to make sure that everyone is aware and has an updated fair schedule. She went over the times in order to make sure that each day was covered.

It was discussed ways to raise awareness of the Gem & Mineral Building at the Fair, as well as possible flyer ideas. She said that not a lot of people know what the actual building is for, they think that it is an indoor swap meet with outdoor rocks, so it might be beneficial to create flyers to give out at the fair. She also suggested to include the new times for the fair in a Facebook post. This way people know what the new schedule is.

Ways to increase noncompetitive cases was mentioned. Educational ones could especially help.

It was discussed that we call our next Rock Sale a Rock Show so we could advertise it in the Rock & Gem Magazine.

Lance updated the member listing and suggesting keeping four or five copies in the clubhouse. He also suggested to have as many as possible receive the Newsletter by email to decrease our mailing costs. Lance also shared with the board that he is receiving four or five emails a week asking about our club from our website, he suggests that they come to the next general meeting and meet with club members to see what we are all about.

*Don't forget your*



Tracy shared the idea of creating a press release that she could share with the press at one of her presentations at the Boys and Girls club about our Club.

The board discussed creating policies about pets in order to avoid a potential accident or someone getting hurt. Safety for all club members should be our highest priority. The board decided to table any decision on this matter until the next board meeting.

Ideas by members were discussed, which included suggestions in members wish list, and using a suggestion box. The Constitution and By-Laws of the San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society was handed out to all board members present.

Peggy shared the club's financials, she went over the 2024 annual Treasures report and the San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society Budget for 2025.

Three new members were voted on and passed.

Frank Wagner

Lachlan McWhorter and his wife

Doriann McWhorter

Welcome to our club!

Tammy Cardona was voted to be an additional signer on the clubs checking account.

Alexa reminded the board that the next meeting will be held at the Fair grounds, with a potluck lunch after.

Meeting adjournment at 9:12am

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Mifflin,  
SGMGS Secretary

# January 2025

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

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Clean-up Day at the Fairgrounds
9 Club meeting at Fairgrounds 10am Exhibit set up 1pm	10 Exhibit set up	11	12	13 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	14 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	15 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival
16 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	17	18	19	20 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	21 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	22 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival
23 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	24	25	26	27 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	28 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival	Riverside County Fair & Date Festival Mar. 1st & Mar. 2nd

## AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely

extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc. I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of

litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

## Board of Directors - 2025

President	Alexa Velazquez	C (442) 294-8916
First Vice-President	Tammy Cardona	H (951) 230-4966 (In charge of programs)
Assistant to First Vice-President	Lou Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
Second Vice-President	Jackie Misuraca	C (760) 250-3636 (In charge of picnic)
Assistant to Second Vice-President	Bob Zola	H (951) 845-5517
Secretary/Alternate	Judy Mifflin	C (253) 261-5123
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	Helen Sapienza	H (760) 507-7070
Sunshine Report	Alexa Velazquez	C (442) 294-8916
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
	John Scofield	C (951) 314-8486
CFMS Director/Alternate	Judy & Lou Mifflin	H (253) 261-5123
	Fred & Peggy Richard	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

## Upcoming Shows and Events

### ***Riverside County Fair & Date Festival***

This years fair opens on  
2/13/25 and runs through  
3/2/25.

The fair will be open  
Thursday/Sunday each  
week. Monday through  
Wednesday the fair will be  
closed, except for the first  
Monday  
(Presidents Day 2/17/25)

Work sign-up sheets for the  
Fair are available, please  
sign-up. Check your  
availability and make plans  
to attend!



Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
March 14 - 16, 2025  
9:00am - 5:00pm



13050 Syracuse Rd. 626-290-4795  
Lucerne Valley, California

Come join us for a wonderful  
sale featuring gems, minerals, & fossils  
from the world over!

Multiple vendors showcasing their incredible  
specimens.