

# ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills  
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 5  
May 2026

## Club Calendar

### MONDAY May 4th

Business Meeting  
on Zoom  
7 PM

### SATURDAY May 9th

Class  
Thalia's House

### SATURDAY May 16th

Society Meeting  
At the Church  
7:00 PM  
Meeting will be in  
Room 10.

\*ID Night!\*

Dear Rock Chippers!

We celebrated Thalia's 100th Birthday at the Society meeting. And it was epic!! We are so thankful, grateful and blessed to have her in our club. We had cake and food to celebrate. The slideshow was just the tip of the iceberg regarding Thalia's life. She has done so much for this club. The FRA has an amazing lady teaching kids about the wonders of the lapidary arts. Thalia's contributions are extensive. We sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope you enjoyed yourself.

The second part of the night was dedicated to the Gem and Rock identification. It was fabulous. It was so fabulous that we are continuing it at the May 16th Society meeting. If you have something that needs identifying, bring it in. We will try our very best.

Also we have a field trip tentatively scheduled to the Ocean View Mine in Pala, CA. Take a peek at the details. If you are interested, sign up for more information. We look forward to seeing you.

Regarding classes, we have an exciting Dichroic Glass class scheduled with Thalia and Shanna. There is a class fee. Kindly sign up with these ladies for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the next society meeting.

Also welcome our new members. Rockhounding is a passion. Thank you for joining us.

Have a wonderful month!

Best regards,

Paty M.  
President  
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

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## Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Debbie Hirlinger at [whrc@rockchippers.org](mailto:whrc@rockchippers.org)

## Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at [whrc@rockchippers.org](mailto:whrc@rockchippers.org)

Regular club meetings are held at 7:00PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at:  
At the Church in Room 10

Visit our website [www.rockchippers.org](http://www.rockchippers.org)  
WHRC Editor: P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

## New Member Mike Grey

I have been a strawberry picker, singer (3 time Karaokefest finalist), high school athlete, clarinet and bassoon player (not very good), scout camp councilor, salvage worker in the worlds largest limestone mine, Pinkerton security guard, machine shop worker (lathes, mills, drills, assembly painting and quality control), pulp wood loader in the piney woods of Louisiana, shipping clerk, rice mill electronic sorting machine operator, roustabout on an off-shore oil rig, AT&T employee (salesman, relay service operator and supervisor and a long distance operator), actor, recording artist, nightclub doorman, telephone survey interviewer, and receiving clerk. Was nominated for West Point but failed the hearing test. I have always been a collector of various things. Switched college major from math to earth science and enjoyed collecting more than classes. I have collected at the famous Pugh quarry in Ohio, although all of my specimens have been lost over the years. Discovered the second known lungfish tooth found in Ohio and have a partially pyritized shark spine (fin bone) on display at the Ohio State University's Orton Geological Museum. I am anxious to get out into the field for collecting fossils and minerals while I am still able to do so.

Mike Grey



## May's Program

# WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS

Part 2: ID NIGHT

Bring your Mineral, Rock  
or Specimens for ID.

May 16th, starts at 7PM

Bring your tools



22700 Sherman Way, West Hills 91307

## MYSTERY ROCK



This was brought in by a guest.

Do you know what it is?

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# WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS

## MEMBER FIELD TRIP

### YOU'RE INVITED! STRIKE IT RICH AT THE OCEAN VIEW MINE!

#### WHY YOU CAN'T MISS THIS DIG:

- **KEEP WHAT YOU FIND:** EVERYTHING UNCOVERED IN THE HIGH-GRADE MATERIAL IS YOURS TO TAKE HOME!
- **DISCOVER REAL GEMSTONES:** SEARCH FOR BEAUTIFUL PINK TOURMALINES, LILAC-VIOLET KUNZITES, STUNNING MORGANITES, AND VIBRANT AQUAMARINES.
- **ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE:** THIS IS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND SERIOUS ROCKHOUNDS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS.
- **THE EXPERIENCE:** SCREEN THROUGH MATERIAL FROM AN ACTIVE UNDERGROUND MINE WHILE ENJOYING BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE PALA VALLEY.

#### WHAT TO BRING:

- CLOTHES THAT CAN GET DIRTY (MINING INVOLVES WASHING AND SCREENING).
- A 5-GALLON BUCKET TO CARRY YOUR FINDS.
- GLOVES TO PROTECT YOUR HANDS.
- A PICNIC LUNCH AND PLENTY OF WATER.

SPACES FILL UP FAST FOR THIS UNIQUE, HIGH-ENERGY, AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE. BOOK A DIG NOW AND COME FIND A PIECE OF EARTH'S TREASURE!

#### THE DETAILS:

- **LOCATION:** 37304 MAGEE RD, PALA, CA.
- **DAYS:** SUNDAY MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>
- **TIME:** SIGN UP AT THE MAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SOCIETY MEETING - FURTHER INFORMATION IS GIVEN

## Bench Tips for May

### DRILL PRESS VISES

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like [micro-mark.com](http://micro-mark.com) [mscdirect.com/enco](http://mscdirect.com/enco) [smallparts.com](http://smallparts.com) [grizzly.com](http://grizzly.com)

### DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll it out as sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture on the top.

Tips by Brad Smith

[BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com](mailto:BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com)

**JOIN US**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026**  
**27TH ANNUAL SHOW**  
**GEM SHOW**

*PRESENTED BY*

**THE WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS**

**DEALERS & DISPLAYS**

**RAFFLES & GAMES**

**SILENT AUCTION & GOLD PANNING**

**FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**22700 SHERMAN WAY, WEST HILLS, CA 91307**



**STARTS AT 10AM - 5PM**  
**FOR INFORMATION EMAIL:**  
**WHRC@ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG**  
**WWW.ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG**



**An educational Non-Profit Community Organization**

**Woodland Hills Rock Chippers**  
**Monday Board Meetings - via Zoom**  
*6:45 pm Log In / 7:00 pm start time*

**February 2**  
**March 2**  
**April 6 - Easter Monday**  
**May 4**  
**June 1**  
**July 6**  
**August 3**  
**September 7 - Labor Day**  
**October 5**  
**November 2**  
**December 7**



**We will be holding our social meetings in Room 10 at the church. Here are the dates you can put on your calendar for the rest of this year:**

**March 21**

**April 18th**

**May 16th**

**June 20th**

**July 18th**

**August Picnic TBA**

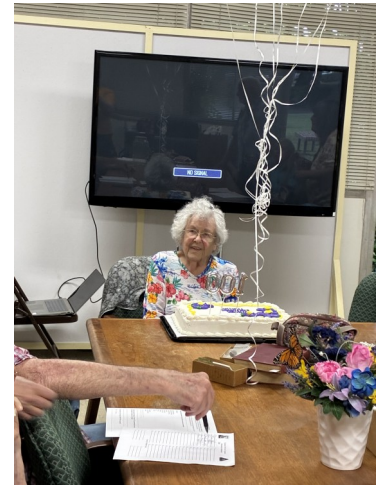
**September 19th**

**October show TBA**

**November 21st**

**December Christmas Party TBA**

## Thalia's Birthday



## THALIA'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS  
APRIL 2026

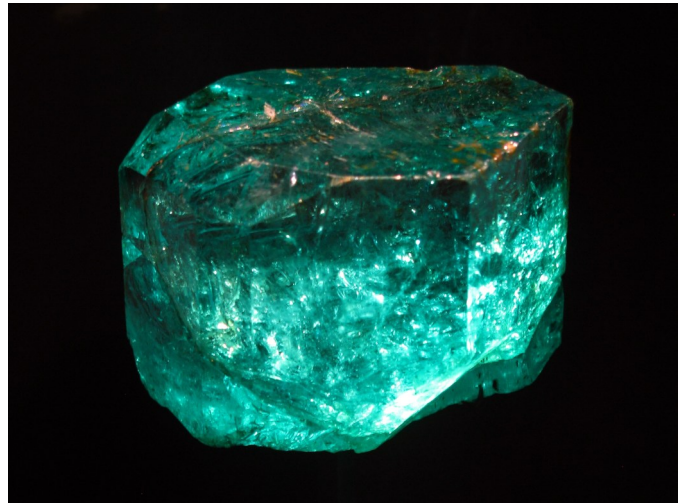
## Gemstone of the Month

### BIRTHSTONE FOR MAY - EMERALD

Over the ages emerald has been the choice for May's birthstone, it's green color representing re-birth of the world with green plants renewing the landscape. The color has been even given a name for it's specific hue. - emerald green. Also the emerald name is used to describe Ireland = "the Emerald Isle".

Emerald is a member of the beryl family which includes aquamarine and heliodore, This stone requires special care. it's hardness is 6.5 to 7 on the Moh's scale - similar to quartz. It scratches relatively easily, It is brittle, and fractures easily because of the frequent inclusions and usual internal fractures. **IT IS SENSITIVE TO HEAT - EVEN THE WARMTH OF DISH WASHING SOLUTIONS CAN AFFECT EMERALDS.** Cool water, soap and a soft brush are recommended for cleaning.

Pure emeralds with clarity are very rare. Emeralds is one of the gemstones that man has been able to produce artificially. The chemical and physical properties of man-created stones are the same as natural stones. These are the deep green ones you see used for more inexpensive jewelry.



## *April Class*

.April was a busy month with schedules having to be juggled. Many regular participants could not attend but we got to meet and teach someone new who is interested in learning wire working/rocks and who has been to our Gem Show. Had lots of fun meeting Kineta and showing her how to make "Shannon's Woven Pendant Frame". We hope to see more of her at our classes and at our meetings. Shown below is John and Kineta's finished pendants from the class.



## *May Class*

Our May class will be on the second Saturday of the month. At 10 am at Thalia's home. We will be making Dichroic glass items. Each participant will get to make 4 pieces. We will have one kiln firing of pieces. Number of pieces fired at one time is limited so most pieces will be done on Sunday and delivered to each participant later, usually at our meeting on the third Saturday. The price for this class is \$45. This covers \$5 class fee, costs of materials and firing. Class size is limited, so if you wish to participate, please e-mail Shanna to reserve a spot.



## Showcase News



### *May Birthdays*

*John*

### *Anniversaries*

*Lisa & Mark*



WHRC Board meeting  
April 6, 2026  
Via Zoom

Members in attendance: Paty Meorado, Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, Gene Berwager, John and Shanna O'Brien, Celia Barnett, Thalia Goldsworthy, Virginia, Maureen Levitt

Meeting called to Order by Paty at 7:10, we have a quorum.

Treasurer: Barbara - books are in order, we're in the black.

Minutes of March meeting in newsletter approved.

CFMS - So Cal Lapidary camp interest form will be distributed at general meeting and Celia will report back to CFMS.

Old Business - Debbie - she contacted Frank, who does badges for Del Air & Conejo and ordered them. White no colors, got Aurora's and Mike' next day. "Swinger" already done, will get to John & Shanna next meeting.

Membership - 2 members re-upped and Debbie will send out new Roster, please check for correctness. All members paid up - 15 or 16.

Corporate - Debbie - tax returns done for now, will renew insurance in June.

Classes - Shanna - last Saturday in April, will send out an email just before.

Historian - Gene got books and will get empty binders from Maureen.

Ways & means - Celia - needs Jackalope for missing badge payments, club authorizes John and Shanna to obtain one.

Program - April is mineral ID, Shanna & Thalia will meet to discuss what they need to bring to identify samples. Set out like silent auction with a sheet with potential ID's. Paty can bring some equipment, not a lot

Webmaster - John, web site up, displays current newsletter. Email is working, lots of spam. Debbie has asked new members to submit bios for newsletters.

Show - Barbara - location? Church is all outdoors and meeting room & restrooms. St.

Martin is less but issues with unlocking gate and someone has to be there 7 am to 7 pm. Indoors used by children waiting for parents. Wanted us to adjust hours from 10 - 5. She thinks we should stay with church. The big problem is someone at St. Martin's all day. Two vendors are okay with outside. John suggests using LED's, battery operated. He and Shanna will provide info on that. Unanimous vote to stay with church.

John requested Barbara put an email together to Mary and George so we have something in writing. Venue decided, now we need flyers. Paty will edit flyers and send them - Thalia had computer program of 4 copies per sheet. John wants to hold off on flyer till we have something written from church, Barbara will contact them tomorrow.

Webmaster - John - he's working with other programs than Microsoft which keeps pulling the rug out from under him.

Site for show confirmed and flyers need to be updated.

Field trip - 4/26/26 at Maureen's, rockhunting locations will be investigated.

Paty requests putting upcoming events in Newsletter to generate interest.

Librarian - Shanna - only so much space, needs to weed out some stuff, will go to silent auction.

No further business, Paty adjourned meeting 8:13.

Respectfully submitted, Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers

WHRC Meeting April 18, 2026  
First United Methodist Church

Members in attendance: Paty Mejorado, Gene and Lillian Berwager, John and Shanna O'Brien, Thalia Goldsworthy, Celia Barnett, Maureen Levitt, Larry Lorenzno and Mike Grey. Guests were Lindy Ireland, Lucy and Yaron Xue and Mike S.

Mike and Lucy found our Mineral I.D. program on a Google search and brought some tourmaline and a black rock with nodules in for identifying.

Paty called the meeting to order at 7:05 and we had the flag salute.

Then the birthday party for Thalia, 100 years on April 9, 2026 began. There were tacos and a veggie platter, punch, cake and ice cream and we got to enjoy a slide show of pics of Thalia taken through the years. Mike and Lucy's specimens were checked out, also some minerals brought in by members.

The raffle was held at 8:40 and the business meeting began at 9:00. Minutes from Board meeting not available yet.

No corporate administrator, report deferred.

Virginia will do auditor report in July. She handled the membership duties in Debbie's absence, guests introduced. John thanked for publicizing the program.

John and Shanna set up the case in Conejo, John mentioned an ammonite missing from the display. Next location for the case is Culver City.

Federation - Celia - the CFMS So Cal Lapidary camp forms were filled out, will be forwarded to CFMS.

Field trip - Rockhunting locations and maps will be discussed at Maureen's 4/26/26 at 1 pm. Ocean View Mine in May - we will need a sign-up sheet. August is the Natural History Museum.

Historian - Gene, nothing new.

Librarian - Shanna is going through the books from Maureen.

Badges - They're back and were distributed.

Publicity - Case is in Conejo show. Our show will be at the church, Paty working on contract, flyers distributed.

Classes - Shanna - April 25 will be a woven frame wire wrap, May, second Saturday will be dichroic. All the materials will be available for a fee.

Programs - Paty - no May program, June is silent auction. May meeting will be Gem I.D. part 2, we will do scratch and hardness tests. Bring magnets, loupes, labelers for items.

Ways & Means - Celia - needs donations and pencils for Silent Auction.

Webmaster - John - needs articles for newsletter, has Mike's bio.

Hospitality - we celebrated Thalia's birthday..

No other business, Paty adjourned 9:39.

Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers



**Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated**



Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.



Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Social time from 6:30 p.m.



Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.



**Elected Officers/Directors**

President	Paty Mejorado	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Lillian Berwager
Secretary	Celia Barnett	Corp. Admin. V/P	Debbie Hirlinger
Directors At Large John & Shanna O'Brien (1 vote)			

**Chairpersons and Appointed Positions**

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Membership .....	Debbie Hirlinger
Bulletin Editor .....	John O'Brien	Outreach.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Classes.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Programs .....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Courtesy/Hospitality...	Lillian Berwager	Publicity.....	Open
Custodian.....	Open	Shop .....	Open
Fed Director.....	Cecelia Barnett	Club Show Chair.....	Paty Mejorado
Alt. Fed Director.....	Virginia Rotramel	Asst.Show Chair.....	Open
Field Trips.....	Paty Mejorado	Ways and Means.....	Celia Barnett
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster-Temp. Acting...	John O'Brien
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		
Librarian.....	Shanna O'Brien		



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