

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 7
July 2026

Club Calendar

MONDAY July 6th

Business Meeting
on Zoom
7 PM

SATURDAY July 11th

Class
Thalia's House

SATURDAY July 18th

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

Hello fabulous Rock Chippers,

June was an exciting month for us. The Showcase traveled to the Culver City Gem Show held at the Veterans Center. The club created the Rough and Ready showcase to capture your curiosity about minerals and the lapidary arts. There is so much you can do to be inspired and to inspire others. It was like viewing all our compiled classes in one showcase. The range of minerals, crystals and specimens was comprehensive. If you feel inspired and want to see a specific class let us know. We hope you had a chance to stop and see it. We want to share the knowledge with you.

In August we are headed to the Natural History Museum. This is a members only field trip. Sign up to become a member and join the fun. We want you to come with us.

In May we visited the Ocean View Mine in Pala, California. We are going back for Round 2 on September 27th.

We also have exciting classes coming up. Thalia and Shanna are leading the Spiral Ring on July 11th. Kindly sign up in advance for more information.

The Gem Show is October 17th. The club is currently accepting donations for the Silent Auction table. Please let us know so we can arrange a drop-off. We appreciate the support as we look to grow this club with more members, fun activities and classes. Ask us about the membership guidelines.

On July 18th, the program is Family Fun Night and Show & Tell. You don't want to miss it, as mineral samples will be presented for viewing.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Best,
Paty M.
President/ Gem Show Chair
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Bulletin Index

Page 2
Show Flyer

Page 3
Event Calendar

Page 4
Ocean View Trip

Page 5
North Carolina Trip

Page 6
Birthstone of the
Month

Page 7
Classes

Page 8
Family night

Page 9
Showcase
Birthdays and
anniversaries

Page 10
Board Minutes

Page 11
Social Minutes

Page 12
Corporate Mission
And Officers

Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Debbie Hirlinger at whrc@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at whrc@rockchippers.org

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

Visit our website www.rockchippers.org
WHRC Editor: P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

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**

Ocen View Trip

Field Trip to Ocean View Mine 5/31/26

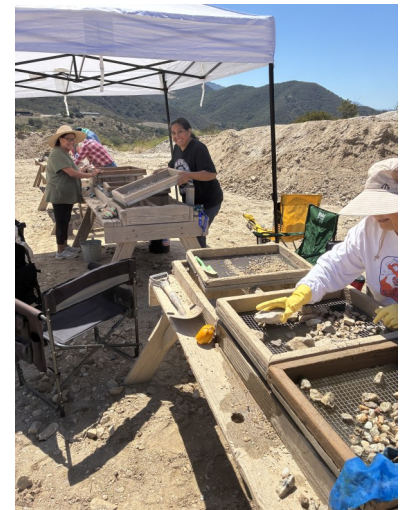
Several of our members had already been there, done that, but some of us had not so Virginia, Barbara, Paty, new members her aunt Aurora, Mike & I were game to go. Barbara and I planned to carpool to Virginia's and then stay over there but Barbara located cabins at Lake Henshaw and booked one where 5 of us could bunk for cheap! So Barbara and I drove out to Virginia's on Saturday, the GPS lady took us through some construction and then went silent! We thought she'd quit her job but she finally spoke up and told us to turn right in 50 feet! We got to Virginia's via the scenic route and Virginia drove the long & winding road to the Lake Henshaw "resort." The cabin was spacious & renovated, could sleep 5, nice view of the lake, fully stocked kitchen, was great. The restaurant had very fresh home-cooked food - yummy!

Paty and Aurora arrived middle of the night and we were all up early to drive the long & winding 20 miles to the turnoff for the mine. We met Mike at the entrance where everybody had to ante up to go up the typical rock-hunting road to the collecting site. There were quite a few people gathered there for collecting. Young and old. Orientation was at 9:30 and everyone attacked the collection pile with their buckets and dispersed to screen their treasures. Paty had the foresight to bring a spiffy shade canopy to put over her screening station. Fortunately, Virginia had recommended bringing a hat so most of us avoided sunburns. Except Mike, his hands got sunburned. A picture of a crystal cluster is included and they had samples of goodies that had been found. Also there's a picture of Paty & Aurora hard at work and Virginia sifting away. It was great to see younger people so enthusiastic about sifting for crystals.

Paty and Aurora and I took the mine tour, a jaunt up a steep rocky road in an off-road vehicle with a serious drop-off to the side. Fun! We got to see the mine entrances, not terribly large and probably secure but scary nonetheless. Then back down the rocky road at breakneck speed, more fun!

Then it was back to work filling the buckets - they got heavier by the hour - and dumping the rocks into the sifting boxes and sifting away. The "officials" at the mine halted operations at about 1:45 & we dispersed to deal with traffic on the 15 till we got to Virginia's then Barbara & I headed home with our treasures.

Celia Barnett, Director



North Carolina Trip

Looking for gems in North Carolina, by Debbie Hirlinger

Linda, who (belongs to the Baltimore Mineral Society) and Debbie hit the road for a trip from Baltimore to North Carolina with many exciting stops along the way. All of these places have a water flume for you to wash the buckets of dirt you purchase. Some offer “natural buckets” (straight from the mine, no guarantees and “salted” buckets (gems put in for you to find.) We went for the natural buckets but if you are a first timer or have kids, the salted buckets got you some nice gems, though many gems not from the area.

Our first stop was the Lost Dutchman’s Gold Camp at Vein Mountain in Marion/Nebo, we panned a bucket of dirt each and did not get any gold but it was fun visiting one of the private properties of the club- of course there was the gift shop, nice to meet Jim and Stacey the caretakers of the camp.

Next we went to The Sheffield Ruby Mine, in Franklin, about an hour and a half west- got there later in the day so we only had time for 1 bucket each and with the help of Richard and his trusty laser/black light we each got some rubies! Also a nice gift shop! Richard says he has the dirtiest dirt in North Carolina so you really have to “warsh” it.

In the morning we set our sights for Mason Mountain Rhodolite and Ruby Mine, this place had a pile of dirt from the mine that you shoveled into buckets, screened and washed in the flume. We did get some Kyanite, garnets and Linda got a sapphire. The flume water was so muddy from the get-go it was not as nice of an experience, harder to get clean, sure I missed some gems... Friendly staff and another awesome gift shop.... We had hoped to get to another mine but ran out of time, the Franklin area has many mines to choose from. Dinner- Half rack of ribs dinner with two sides for \$15.00 hit the spot!

Next in Franklin we went to the Franklin Mineral Museum. The well-stocked museum is run by the members, specimens from members and most of the things in the gift shop made by members. The building is in the old Macon County Jail from the 1800’s, lots of history in the area, thanks to the club members Debi and Susan for giving us a great tour and sharing stories of rock-hounding.

The next day we headed to meet up with some friends in the Hendersonville area below Ashville for a hike in the Pisgah National forest below the old Ray Mica Mine in Burnsville the forest twinkled with Mica! Lots of Feldspar, lots of Smokey quartz and we got one small piece of yellow beryl, Jason found a rainbow stone, looked like an opal, but he let us know it is flouroapatite. The area was tore up from the flood in 2024, so hard to get to the area we wanted to check out but we had a wonderful picnic and beautiful day in the forest. Coming back, a black bear was raiding the trash at the red light.

Last day we went to Emerald Village, near Little Switzerland, we each ran two buckets of natural dirt and only found mica, feldspar and Smokey quartz, some black mica and pink feldspar, no emerald at all. Nice clean flume though. The site also had a cave tour, this is where “Bon Ami” cleanser came from, interested place with old mining equipment and a tour about the area. Of course we had to hit that gift shop....emerald cabochons in the matrix from Crabtree mine near by- Oh MY!

Birthstone of the Month

Known since ancient times as the **King of Gemstones**, ruby, from the corundum family, is widely regarded as the **July birthstone**, though this has not always been the case. Prior to 1912, when the Jewelers of America officially adopted ruby as the July birthstone, both onyx and turquoise were considered appropriate gemstones for this month.

Ruby is widely regarded as one of the most esteemed gemstones, thanks to its aesthetic appeal, exquisite shape, and exotic color. Moreover, it is renowned for its rarity, and hardness, second only Diamond. It comes in a crystal, flat tabular hexagonal shape that makes it suitable for various ornamental cuts. It is therefore not surprising that rubies command the highest value for any colored birthstones.



June Class

Our June class on making a Woven Donut Pendant was a success. Thalia, John, Anna, Anita, Shanna, and Debbie all made some beautiful pendants



July Class

Our next class will be at Thalia's on July 11th at 10am. We will be making a wire wrap Spiral Ring. Twelve inches of 22, 20, or 18 gauge wire of your choice will be needed, preferably soft or half-hard. Wire will be available for purchase. Tools needed are; wire cutter, round nose, chain nose, and/or flat nose pliers. If you have a ring sizer mandrel or regular mandrel please bring it to help with sizing and forming your ring. A leather or rubber hammer are also helpful. Tools will be available for use if you do not have your own. Please let Shanna know if you would like to attend by contacting her through the club website or at 310-403-9397.



Family Night

Family Night

At our July meeting on the 18th, our program will be Family Night. We have everyone participate in creating an item that all ages can enjoy. We encourage members and guests to bring their children or other family members to have a fun time making this project and meeting everyone. The meeting begins at 7 pm.

We will be making a Split Twig Animal. Directions for making this and a bit about its history will be available at the meeting. A supply of silver aluminum wire and tools to help make this will also be available. If you have other wire/colored wire that you would like to make this item from, please bring a 3 foot length. This can be made without tools, but some may find it easier with a pair of round nose or chain nose pliers. You may bring them if you like. See you then!



Showcase News



July Birthdays:

Juliet and Anita



Anniversaries:

None

WHRC Board Meeting
June 1, 2026
Location: Zoom

Members in attendance: Barbara Bradbury, Gene Berwager, Thalia Goldsworthy, Paty M., Maureen, Virgini, Steve Dover
Celia and Debbie are not present.

Establish Quorum: No

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Paty M.

Treasurer: Barbara stated: We haven't received the May Bank statement yet. We raised a nice amount for the raffle at the last meeting. Barbara will drop off the check at the church and check the locks.

Auditor - Virginia will audit the books in July.

Newsletter: John is handling the bulletin

Craft and workshop: The next class is on June 13 at Thalia's. The class project is "The Wire Wrapped Pendant". Class fee is \$5.00 + plus materials that need to be purchased. July 11th class is the "spiral ring". Please contact Thalia or Shanna.

CFMS - Celia: not present - newsletter sent out

Courtesy: Gene responded for Lilian, there is nothing to report.

Community outreach: We are seeking volunteers to post about the Gem Show in the libraries.

Corporate administration - per Debbie: not present

Display - Rough and Ready showcase: Debbie has the showcase going to Culver City on June 26th for setup

Field trips: Several members attended the Field Trip to Ocean View Mine. Paty was in charge and said everyone had a great time. Weather was great also. Mostly quartz and short (black tourmaline) were found. There was a discussion about returning to the Ocean View Mine on September 27th for members that could not attend the first visit.

A reminder that the next Field Trip is August 23rd to the Natural History Museum. Open to current members only. Kindly sign up with Paty in advance to secure tickets.

A reminder that the next Field Trip is August 23rd to the Natural History Museum. Open to current members only. Kindly sign up with Paty in advance to secure tickets.

Historian - Gene, nothing new.

Librarian: Shanna responded that there was nothing new regarding the Library.

Publicity: Thank you to Shanna and Maureen for cutting and distributing the flyers. We appreciate you.

Show chair: The Show is outdoors only and teams will need individual canopies to protect from the heat. Barb is going to ask Mary if she can use the overhang on the gymnasium bldg. We will need electricity for geode cutting and the Pixie. We are currently accepting donations for the Silent Auction and raffle prizes for the Gem Show. The crafts table has more ideas for games like Ring Toss for the kids. Tables are required for Spin A Wheel and Crafts. We also need tables for the specific team. Vendors are responding to contract.

Webmaster: The website is in order.

Program: There will be a Silent Auction and Show & Tell at the June 20th society meeting. The July 18 Society meeting will feature Show and tell + wire-wrapped stick animal- family FUN night. On August 15th we will have the Picnic and Rocky Bingo. For the September 19 Society meeting we have the Pre-Show overview. October 17th is the Annual Gem Show. All members are encouraged to attend and volunteer. November 21 is the post-meeting; kindly suggest a program. December 29th is the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers holiday party.

New Business: Thank You Maureen for offering your Workshop for use by club members only. A discussion regarding Stained Glass class. Rules to follow. If you are interested please let us know.

Adjourned: 8:13pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paty M., Pro tem secretary, Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

June Society Meeting

Methodist Church—June 20

Members in attendance: Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, John & Shanna O'Brien, Gene and Lillian Berwager, Virginia Rotramel, Thalia Goldsworthy, Celia Barnett, Maureen Levitt, Juliet and Mike Grey. . Guests were ABC & daughter _____

Debbie called the meeting to order at 7:25 and we had the flag salute. Paty under the weather, silent auction tonight.

Correction to Minutes of May meeting - Natural History Museum field trip listed as 8/22/26, correct date is 8/23/26, Sunday. At 9:30 a.m.

Treasurer - Barbara received May bank statement, all in order.

Guests __ABC__ & _____ arrived, were looking for beads at Pasadena convention center and looked Rockchippers up on Facebook.

Auditor - Virginia, end of July.

Bulletin - John - Microsoft will cut off program in October, until then Newsletter will be coming out.

Classes & workshops - Thalia & Shanna - good class last Saturday, doing doughnut pendants. Full class and all did very nice work. Thalia will provide John the pictures for the newsletter. showed the basket weave bezel pendant.

Courtesy - Lillian, up to date, cards sent out.

Community outreach - Debbie - Canoga Park Art Walk last year was our outreach, Paty will let us know when that's happening this year, and Pioneer Days in Chatsworth in October. Culver City show 6/27-28, Our case will be in it, Debbie and Barbara will set up and take down.

Corp Admin - Insurance = Debbie filed Calif. Secretary of State biannual form last week, new officers updated. Next thing, pull permit for the show.

CFMS - Newsletter sent out by John & meeting upcoming in September at the Reno show.

FRA- no activity.

Historian - Gene - Nothing to report.

Insurance - Debbie paid in May and expires right at the time of the show. Will renew in September.

Librarian - Shanna - nothing to report.

Membership - Myrna contacted Lillian & renewed and Anna rejoined. Roster sent out.

Publicity - flyers for Culver City show available. Shanna has packets of flyers for libraries.

Show - chair Paty not present. Per Shanna we need Gem Jar donations and need raffle donations. At September meeting Debbie wants raffle donations to list & label. Last show she received 15 donations from vendors day of the show.

Ways & Means - Celia - Silent Auction tonight.

Webmaster - John - covered already.

Old Business - Celia will contact Steve Dover to see if the cases from Culver City could be returned there for storage.

New Business - Maureen - trying to get rid of equipment, most of it is gone and brought some worked rocks. Limb casts. Needs oil for Pixie.

Maybe another field trip to Ocean View - September 27? Maybe beachcombing?

Meeting adjourned 8:03, Debbie went over the rules for the Silent Auction after a 5 minute break.

Silent auction was held, thanks to Maureen for some nice specimens that were bid on multiple times.

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		



Material from Rock Chippings may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes with appropriate credits. For commercial use, individual authors must be contacted for approval. Articles lacking bylines have been generated by the bulletin staff. Direct other questions to the Editor online to: www.rockchippers.org - or by mail to: WHRC Chippings Editor P. O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

