

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 8
August 2026

Club Calendar

MONDAY August 3rd

Business Meeting
on Zoom
7 PM

SATURDAY August 8th

Class
Thalia's House

SATURDAY August 15th

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

Dear Rock Chippers,

August 2026 will be filled with lots of fun activities at the club. The Society meeting is on August 15th. We are playing Rocky Bingo and having a Potluck. Kindly bring prizes for the bingo and goodies to munch on.

We also have a member's excursion to the Natural History Museum. We are very excited to tour the Unearthed: Raw Beauty exhibit. It features exotic minerals from all over the world.

We are working on the 27th Annual Gem Show on October 17th 2026. Members are creating exciting showcases of their collections. Our members have been working very hard behind the scenes to bring this all together. We are taking donations for the Silent Auction and raffle prizes.

If you have minerals, gems or tools for donation, kindly let us know so we can make arrangements for delivery.

We need to borrow canopies for some of the activities. Do you happen to have a few we can borrow for the day? If so, please let us know as soon as possible. You can email us at the club:

whrc@rockchippers.org. We sincerely appreciate your assistance.

The July program featured the wire stick figure which has a rich history. The activity was a surprise hit! Let us know what you'd like to see in the upcoming months.

The Gem Show is right around the corner. Please spread the word and save the date. The vendors will have amazing minerals, crystals and tools for sale. Stop by to support the small business and club. We are here to share the wealth of lapidary arts and knowledge.

Also, joining the club ensures that we can keep it going and share the knowledge. Stop by for two meetings and submit your application. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Best, Paty M.

President/ Gem Show Chair

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Bulletin Index

Page 2
Museum Trip

Page 3
Show Flyer

Page 4
Event Calendar

Page 5
Show Raffle

Page 6
North Carolina Trip

Page 7
Birthstone of the
Month

Page 8
Classes

Page 9
Family night

Page 10
Showcase
Birthdays and
anniversaries

Page 11
Board Minutes

Page 12
Social Minutes

Page 13
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



Member Expedition

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Exhibit: Unearthed Raw Beauty

Date: August 23, 2026

Time : 09.15 AM

Location: Gem and Mineral Hall

Sign ups required

Sign ups required

Parking

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S CAR PARK

\$20 FLAT RATE Opens at 9:15am

[3724 Bill Robertson Ln, Los Angeles, CA 90037](https://www.nhm.org/visiting-us/visiting-us/visiting-us)

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**

Raffle

Raffle Prizes and Hourly Prizes Wanted for our Show

Thanks to all the members and vendors that have contributed items in the past to make our raffle a success. It is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year and there are many excited winners leaving with a treasure. It is time once again to bring some items for the raffle case, valued at least \$15-20 dollars each, and up of course. Items can be jewelry, mineral specimens, tools, supplies, polished pieces, and carvings, just to name a few. Please label what it is and your name as we do a list and give credit to the donors at the show.

Bring them in for the next few meetings (August/September) so that there is time to make labels and lists. Last year we had over 50 prizes. Raffle tickets remain at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets will be available for purchase at the September meeting, this year no unpaid advance tickets. It is very time consuming to keep lists of who paid and not and tracking folks down on show day. It is your responsibility to get the stubs handed in. If you buy too many I can give a refund if not all sold, just bring back the unsold tickets. Of course tickets will be available on show day as well.

Donations for the hourly are always welcome, these should be around \$5.00-10.00. We call the entrance tickets during the show and give these away, always a big hit with our patrons! Last year we had about 20 prizes and we had a good mix of items as kids and adults win the prizes, so keep that in mind.

Thanks everyone for helping!

Debbie Hirlinger

Gem Jar Needs Donations

We are seeking donations for the Gem Jar. Jewelry components, finished jewelry, beads, slabs, or anything rock to help fill the jar. Thank You!

Shanna O'Brien

North Carolina Trip

Looking for gems in North Carolina, by Debbie Hirlinger (Redux with picture)

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

Peridot, spinel and sardonyx are the three birthstones for August. The peridot birthstone is known for being formed under extreme conditions, as it can be found in the hardened lava that carried it from deep within Earth's mantle as well as in meteorites that traveled from outer space. The spinel birthstone was underappreciated until recently, as today's consumers look for an alternative to ruby, a gem with which red spinel was mistaken for centuries. Sardonyx is the original August birthstone, with a history that dates back more than 4,000 years. Learn more about these three August birthstones and discover the perfect gift for those born in the month of August.



COURTESY: DR. EDUARD J. GÜBELIN COLLECTION (LEFT SPINEL), WILD & PETSCH LAPIDARIES (PERIDOTS), GIFT OF SUSAN GOLDSTEIN (SARDONYX), ROLAND SCHLUESSEL (RIGHT SPINEL)



July Class

July Class

Our class on the 11th was fun. We made a Swirl ring. We learned the basics on measuring for a ring, how to use a ring sizer mandrel or regular mandrel to form rings.



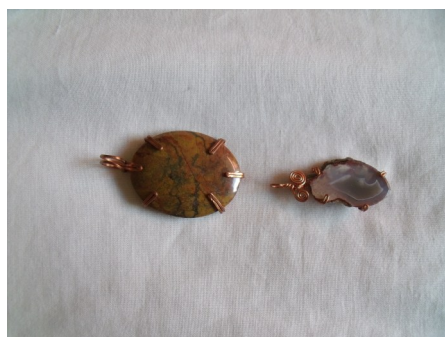
August Class

August Class

This class will be on the 8th, 10 am, at Thalia's home. We will be making a Man Wrap Frame to hold your cabochons or stones.

For this class, you will need an oval or round cab or stone with a flat back. A larger cab around 30mm x 40mm is a good size to practice with. This size cab will need approx. 18 inches of 20g square wire and 30 inches of 20g or 22g half round wire. More wire will be needed for larger stones.

Tools needed are: Round nose, flat nose, and chain nose pliers. Wire cutters, 1/8" diameter dowel or nail for making the bail, felt tip pen, and ruler. Tools and paper to create a pattern will be available for class use. We will have an assortment of cabs and copper wire available for purchase if you do not have your own. Class fee is \$5. This class is longer in time than what we have recently done. We suggest that you bring a cold lunch or a snack to tide you over (we will all take a break). Please contact Shanna to let her know if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.



Family Night

Our July Family Night

This year's Family Night was a success. All members and a couple of guests participated in and finished our craft project. We created a Split Twig Animal and many made some interesting variations. Hoping everyone enjoyed themselves and please bring your creations to the next meeting for display so everyone can see what each created. The picture here shows items made by Shanna and John.



Showcase News



August Birthdays:



Jeanne Costello



Anniversaries:

None

WHRC Board meeting
July 6, 2026
Zoom

Members in attendance: Paty Mejorado, Debbie Hirlinger, Gene Berwager, John and Shanna O'Brien, Celia Barnett, Thalia Goldsworthy, Steve Dover, Maureen Levitt.

Meeting called to Order by Paty at 7:05, Barbara trying to access meeting.

Steve may have to leave meeting, wanted to discuss showcases. We have 10 cases, Gene & Celia have 5 each, Celia can't store them anymore. Only room for showcases is Room 100, maybe 4-6 cases will fit. Only 1 plug, we could switch to LED lights and cut back on heat & power consumption. Debbie will check for any outside outlets. Gene was asked about storing more cases. Some cases can be stored in rafters at Culver City club, deliver to Steve on a Saturday between 10 & 11, need 2 people to get them up ladder & into rafters. Their club shop is closing in 3 years.

Storage looked into, 5x5 \$110 per month.

Need 6 cases for show, raffle prize case. Question: cases labeled WHRC or CC?

For our show, Juliet wanted to do something, Barbara's meteorites, our case, Lillian can do a case. We can set up on Friday, AC will be available. Steve will look into LED lights.

Corrections to Board meeting Minutes? On hold.

Bulletin - John - Debbie's photos didn't get in newsletter, he will run article again with photos. Emails need to be kept within organization guidelines. Debbie sent our newsletter along to Linda's Franklin club.

Correction to Minutes - Maureen's workshop not available for general use, but is for classes.

Next class - Shanna, swirl rings. Meeting 7/18/26 is Family night, will be making stick animal figures. August class not decided yet.

Courtesy - per Lillian up to date.

Community outreach - Paty - case to Culver City show, quite a success.

Corporate Administrator - Debbie - All up to date, insurance coming up just before show.

Federation - Celia - nothing to report.

Field trips - Paty - Natural History tour 8/23/26, Sunday at 9:30, Ocean View mine 9/27/26.

Historian - Gene = nothing to report.

Librarian - Shanna - nothing to report.

Membership - Debbie - Ana rejoined, have 4 new people. June guest lists will be available at July general meeting. Paty encouraged us to chat up guests and new members. Debbie mentioned a member interested in setting stones in settings. Paty & Maureen would like to facilitate that - maybe a show & tell program.

Programs - July, wire wrap stick animal, August picnic, September pre-show, November post-show, around campfire, stories & s'mores. December Holiday party.

Publicity - Shanna has notices for libraries, has taken some, CFMS has our show in their calendar. Paty checking with vendors - most have confirmed. One problem with a dog off leash, there was an incident last year. Maybe "new regulations set up for the show this year." Debbie requested raffle items be brought to September meeting, gem jar needs donations. Debbie will write up an article for the newsletter.

For Silent Auction we can only accommodate items day of the show. Steve & Gene noted to be a great team for the Silent Auction. We need canopies & tables & cash boxes. Club will buy water for the show, Steve will bring cooler. No kitchen availability. Discussion on which restrooms will be available - may have to tape off meeting rooms near Room 100. Per Paty the food truck confirmed.

Maureen needs help to get rocks from yard to show for silent auction, kid's games - John, Shanna & Celia can help with that. And milk crates.

Webmaster - John will have report next meeting. He will post newsletter tomorrow to encourage new people.

Ways & Means - Celia - Raffle proceeds exceeded the slips, large ticket item, the ticket did not show up.

Discussion re flyers dropped at Spirit shop. Shanna will coordinate with Maureen to print flyers - full page vs. 1/4 page.

New business - none.

Barbara reported via telephone to Debbie - haven't received bank statement for June, nothing outstanding.

No more new business, no old business, no further business, Paty adjourned meeting 8:18.

Respectfully submitted, Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers

WHRC Meeting July 18 , 2026

First United Methodist Church

Members in attendance: Paty Mejorado, Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, John & Shanna O'Brien, Virginia Rotramel, Thalia Goldsworthy, Celia Barnett, Maureen Levitt, Larry and Mike Grey. Guest was Rob Gorden.

Paty called the meeting to order at 7:25 and we had the flag salute. Debbie told group about the Gem & Minerals discussion of mineral colors.

We went right into the program of making stick animals out of wire, Shana passed around wire & directions and horses, camels and a horse & rider (by John) were fabricated. Guest Rob was introduced and his agate sample passed around.

Debbie told about her trip to North Carolina gathering rocks from flumes and looking for garnets, had some to show. No rubies but cayenite (sp?) and yellow beryl. In one ruby mine she used her black light and found a fluorescent ruby. Then they went to an emerald mine and she bought a small emerald in matrix. She showed a piece of white marble friend Linda got from a Texas quarry, used for steps for row houses in Jersey. Mike showed his fluorite specimen and it showed fluorescence. Opals in Nevada and site near Randsberg (closed off now) discussed. Maybe a field trip there? Virgin Valley field trip in Mojave - Paty will contact Antelope Valley Club and inquire. Maybe a Jade Beach field trip? Debbie said best to go looking after storms - & preferably low tide.

Break, then back to order and raffle held. Mike was the big winner tonight.

Official meeting called to order 8:42.

Barbara received Silent auction proceeds from Celia.

Programs: August is potluck, bring whatever you want 8/23/26 is the Natural History Museum field trip, inform Paty if you intend to attend.

October show - vendors have served spots, one vendor wants to know if a gas generator will be ok for lights. Classes - Shanna, kid's table Thalia & Celia, Shanna consignment table. Maureen asked who could get silent auction items from her yard, John, Shanna & Celia will coordinate doing so. Virginia asked about tables. Paty will confer with Barbara about where we can put them. Let Paty know if you need a table & bring your own chairs. Per Barbara restrooms in main hall may not be available - problem with nearest ones is extra rooms in hall. Barbara will talk to Mary and find out which restrooms we'll be using and blocking off extra rooms in this hall and will check re: patio area and electrical outlets too.

Paty reiterated we need to keep our eyes out for a new location.

Auditor - Virginia needs books from Barbara for audit.

Bulletin - John - all documents need to be attachments. Our website got hit, was down 2 weeks and 836 pieces of malware on website. It is cleaned up and John will stay on top of the situation. Hostwinds folks were helpful in straightening it out, his concern is his computer is at risk.

Corporate Administration - Debbie, up to date, sent Secretary of State the \$20 registration with her credit card, only online payments now. She's trying to get a notice of our show in Gold magazine. Will pull permit for show.

Federation - Celia - no report

Membership - Debbie - Anna rejoined and badges obtained from new source.

Ways & Means - we need donations for show. Debbie will bring cabs and rocks will be dug up from Maureen's yard.

No further business, Paty adjourned the meeting at 9:12.

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

