

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 9
September 2026

Club Calendar

MONDAY
September 7th
Business Meeting
on Zoom
7 PM

SATURDAY
September 12th
Class
Thalia's House

SATURDAY
September 19th
Society Meeting
At the Church
7:00 PM
Meeting will be in
Room 10.

Dear Rock Chippers,
September 2026 is an exciting time, with several events and opportunities ahead:

Natural History Museum Expedition — September 13th: We will visit the *Unearthed: Raw Beauty* collection, featuring some of the rarest and most spectacular mineral specimens ever found. The exhibit also includes California minerals and a natural gold "flame" display—an absolute must-see. Bring your cameras and be ready for stunning pictures.

Society Meeting — September 19th: This meeting will help us prepare for the Gem Show. All available members are kindly encouraged to attend for important details. As always, we look forward to seeing you.

Ocean View Mine Outing — September 27th: We are driving out to the Ocean View Mine for more mining. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Society meeting on September 19th. Several members joined the last outing, and it was a lot of fun. We hope you will join us for this experience.

Lapidary Classes: Thalia and Shanna are offering classes to expand members' knowledge of the lapidary trade, share new techniques, and enjoy this wonderful hobby. Please confirm your participation with them.

27th Annual Gem and Mineral Show — October 17th, 2026: Join us at 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91037. Admission and parking are free. We have a wonderful group of vendors and club members making this event possible. Invite your friends and family as we share the gem, mineral, and lapidary world with the community.

We look forward to seeing you all. Share any ideas you may have for a feature program or speaker. Have a wonderful day!

Best,

Paty M.

President / Gem Show Chair
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

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



27TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW



PRESENTED BY

WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS

OCTOBER 17, 2026

10AM - 5PM

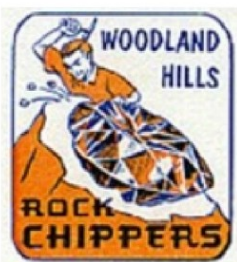


**DEALERS / DISPLAYS / CRAFTS
RAFFLES / GAMES / COUNTRY STORE
SILENT AUCTIONS**



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

FREE ADMISSION / FREE PARKING

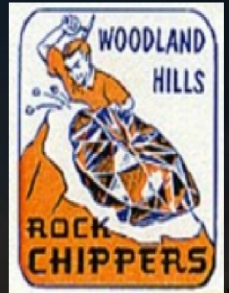


**FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG
EMAIL: WHRC@ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG
AN EDUCATIONAL NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION**



WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS**OCEAN VIEW MINE FIELD TRIP**

A visit to the Oceanview Mine allows you a unique view of the only actively open to the public mine in the world famous Pala Gem mining district and a chance to find your own gems—tourmaline, kunzite (type location), morganite, aquamarine, schorl, lepidolite, beryl, quartz and more. Screen the dump piles of material we take out of our mine and find the gems we've missed—and we miss a lot!

**September 27, 2026****Entrance Fee: \$75 Adults****EARLY START TIME 8:45AM****SIGN UP: WHRC@ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG****SIGN UPS ARE REQUIRED FOR ADVANCED RESERVATIONS**



Member Expedition

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Exhibit: Unearthed Raw Beauty

Date: September 13, 2026

Time : 09.15 AM

Sign ups required

Prepare for an exciting adventure with Unearthed minerals and gems

Please sign up no later than September 6th

Contact email: WHRC: whrc@rockchippers.org

Parking

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S CAR PARK - Opens at 9:15am

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

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 -Silent Auction Items and Country Store 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 meeting on 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 on show day. Of course, tickets will be available on show day as well should you wish to buy more. Big thanks to Maureen and Thalia for getting the tickets printed and stapled in packets.

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.

We have limited space on the Friday in room 10 for silent auction and country store items, so please bring early on day of show. Country store items can be priced ahead, slips can be prefilled for silent auction to save some time.

Thanks everyone for helping! Maureen, Juliet, John & Shanna and Stephanie have already brought items in-good start.

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

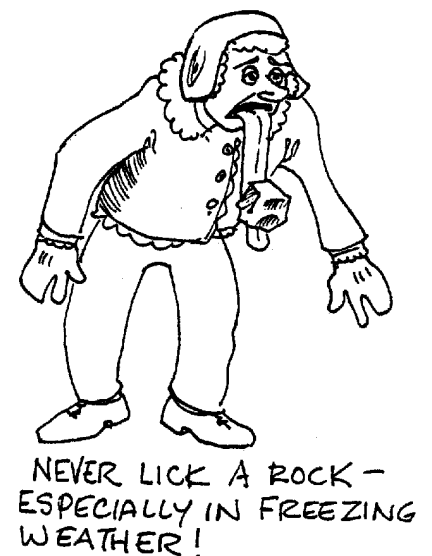
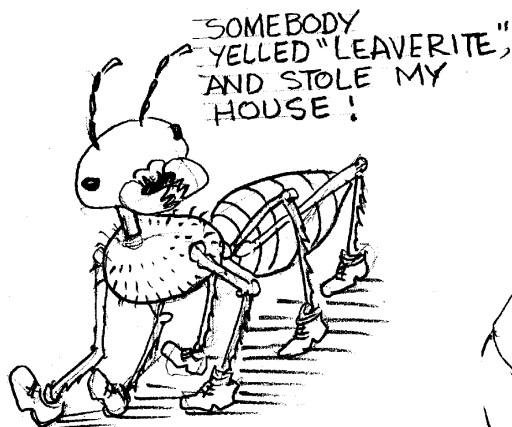
Historian's Message

Historian Update – Storage Trailer Contents by Gene Berwager

As Historian of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers I have thought many times about the loss of our trailer when it was stolen by thieves/robbers from the area where it was stored in West Hills. The theft occurred in February of 2024. The trailer contained 40 years of historical photos, newsletters, records, documents, trophies, and other memorabilia of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers. Equipment (raffle basket, Spin-a-Wheel, display cases, tables) and property of the Rock Chippers was stored also in the trailer. When the stolen trailer was finally spotted in Reseda and was recovered with the help of the LAPD and the alertness of a very good friend of the Rock Chippers, it was pulled to a safe location where the trailer door and its sawed-off lock could be opened. That's when the Historian noticed that the contents were missing. More than two years have transpired since the trailer was stolen and the robbers have not been caught or identified. As Historian I can only conclude that the law of God eventually will be known and the robbers will learn that "Thou Shalt Not Steal".

Gene Berwager, Historian

Maureen's Treasures



Birthstone of the Month

The September birthstone is sapphire – a gem that’s been cherished for thousands of years. Although the term sapphire usually refers to the blue variety of corundum (ruby is the red variety), this birthstone comes in a rainbow of other colors. Sapphires have been long associated with royalty and romance and are also said to symbolize fidelity and the soul. “Sapphire” comes from the Greek word sappheiros and blue sapphire is one of the most popular colored stones. Read on to learn more about the September birthstone, specifically its history and where it can be found.



SAPPHIRE COLOURS BY ORIGIN



DIAMOND BUZZ



August Class

August Class

The class for The Man Wrap Pendant Frame was a success. Thalia, Debbie, Anita, Anna, John, and Shanna were there. It was an interesting learning project about making wraps, using square wire, and creating a pendant frame that can nicely show off a cabochon or stone of any shape.



September Class

Please Remember that classes are for members only

September Class

The September class will be held on the 12th, 10am, at Thalia's home. It will be the Francee pendant. Tools needed are a pair of round or chain nose pliers, 1/8" dowel or nail, and wire cutters. You will need; 26 gauge round wire and round or faceted beads. Amount of wire will depend on the size of the bead. 18" for 3 or 4mm. 22" for 5mm, and 24" for larger beads. A minimum of 25 beads any size will be needed. Tools will be available for use if you do not have your own and there will be 26 gauge copper wire and beads available for purchase.



Showcase News



September Birthdays:

Barbara, Larry, and Pat



Anniversaries:

Jean & Dave Buetow

Pat & Rue Keene

WHRC Board meeting

August 3, 2026

Zoom

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

Meeting called to Order by Paty at 7:11, we have a quorum.

Minutes of July Board meeting and general meeting approved.

Treasurer - Barbara has not received bank statements yet, We did well at the silent auction and last month's raffle.

Audit - Barbara received from Virginia - everything looks good.

Newsletter - John - discussed how he needs to receive submissions - text doc or jpg, PDF doesn't work, can't edit. Newsletter this month looks good. He tries to get it out first of the month but sometimes last minute submissions make that difficult.

Classes - Shanna -they had a fun July workshop and the family night wire animals was fun. August is a Man wrap for cabs, holds cabochon in place.

Hospitality - Per Gene Lillian has it up to date.

Corporate Administrator - Debbie - up to date, will shortly pull permit. Received a letter from the church, they need the certificate of insurance, she called and cleared that up. Insurance expires in 2026. Church wants a special binder for volunteers who might be child predators but we're good to go.

Display - Debbie has.

Federation - Celia - our show listed in CFMS newsletter.

Field trip - Natural history museum, confirm with Paty if you're going, we received guest tickets. They may just be card payments now, we'll need to pay for parking.

Ocean View mine 9/27/26, October is the Gem show.

Historian - Gene, nothing to report.

Insurance - Debbie - early October insurance bill comes in.

Library - Shanna - nothing to report. Question - was Robert's Rules of Order received, she doesn't recall. Will check.

Membership - No new members, a guest in July. Anna never got a badge & Debbie ordered and has hers and Aurora's.

Program - August is potluck, will be at church, AC and restrooms. Bring a dish and rocks to participate in Rocky Bingo. Need e-mail blast for August program - Paty will send a flyer to John. September program is prep for show.

Publicity - Paty listed show on rockhound websites.

Show - Steve said need one power strip and 12 LED bulbs - cost is \$57.00, Celia moves we reimburse Steve for the lights, Shanna seconded. 5 showcases in room and prizes outside. Discussion re: where to put prize case, Debbie will need a table for tickets and Gem jar. Barbara will drop check off at church tomorrow & will check on egress to restrooms and rooms in hallway. Debbie - need power for cases with lights. Maureen saw an outlet in cabinet in meeting room and has an extension cord. Shanna - need power for Pixie.

Waiting for patio information from Barbara who will get info from Mary. Raffle case and table should be on patio - for filling out tickets & PA equipment. Need to check on circuit breakers.

Paty is working on raffle tickets and will be unnumbered and will send to Board prior to printing. Maybe leave date off? Use leftovers next year. How many to print? Per Debbie sold 600 last year; Paty will create template. 110 lb weight. Maureen & Debbie will confer and discuss card stock, Debbie has some from Yvonne. Per Thalia 6 tickets per sheet, index stock, 110 lb. Maureen would like a previous ticket. Steve will make Silent Auction forms - has template. Maureen suggested "buy it now" items.

Raffle and hourly prizes requested and silent auction items - Maureen has rocks available. Steve will bring ice chest, Paty will provide water, Barbara ice, Debbie usually bought 2 cases. 8 oz bottles suggested. Per Steve we need tables and chairs, Paty says we need canopies, we will need to borrow these. Debbie will need 2 tables and chairs. We need the patio for shade, where the Silent Auction can be. There will be a consignment table.

New Business - Paty - question came up for classes and programs who can & can't attend. Maureen reviewed By-laws and standing rules for classes—just members, no guests or friends. Field trips able to have guests but it needs to be coordinated prior to the trip. Guests can bring own children.

Steve discussed cases - Gene has 5, Celia has 5, Paty wants to keep all the cases.

Debbie reminded of hold harmless releases. Discussion re: non-members attending classes - 2 views - encourage people vs. security for members' homes where classes are. Natural History Museum is a member excursion - for insurance requirements.

Website - John able to add Gem show to webpage.- at website has to be very careful.

Per Paty - WHRC is searchable, coming up on different websites.

John had a question on donations - gift and club property? Wants to know club position. Maureen (new Parliamentarian) will research standing rules.

Discussion re: Robert's Rules of Order donated by Maureen, needed by club for resource.

Donations requested for Museum for trip.

Paty adjourned meeting 8:25.

Respectfully submitted, Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers

WHRC Meeting August 15 , 2026

First United Methodist Church

Members in attendance: Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, John & Shanna O'Brien, Gene & Lillian Berwager, Virginia Rotramel, Thalia Goldsworthy, Celia Barnett, Maureen Levitt, Larry, Juliet and Mike Grey. Stephanie Dangott was a guest.

Debbie led the flag salute and the members attacked the pot luck goodies. There were egg rolls, 2 kinds, tacos, quiche, sandwiches, veggies & dip, cookies, pastries and eclairs. Shanna passed around a sign-up list for the Natural History field trip

Debbie called the short business meeting to order at 8:01, guest Stephanie was welcomed. John will explain Rocky Bingo rules. Minutes of July meetings as printed in the newsletter were approved.

Treasurer -Barbara - up to date, books audited in July, Virginia agreed.

Bulletin - in September John needs material in early because losing Publisher. John requested Microsoft 2003 actual disc - Maureen will look for it.

Classes - Shanna, Thalia - August man wrap for cabs was fun and productive. Samples exhibited. Francee (sp?) pendant for September,.

Courtesy - Lillian - up to date.

Corporate Admin - Debbie - up to date, will get show permit soon.

Membership - Debbie - Anna never got a badge, has one now from our new supplier.

Publicity - Case will be set up at show - last one of year so specimens will be returned to owners after our show. Show discussion deferred, Steve not here to discuss cases.

Federation - Celia - newsletter sent out to members.

Field trip - Natural History 8/30/26, sign up sheet.

Historian - Gene - nothing to report.

Librarian - Shanna - books added to library include Robert's Rules of Order. Shanna will review books to see what will be available for Silent Auction at show.

Per Debbie Maureen is now Parliamentarian.

John thinks we have too many directors at large. He will resign and Shanna will be a Director at large. Nothing in the by-laws about shared directorships. Subject tabled till next Board meeting.

Publicity - tabled till September meeting

Show - tabled till September meeting.

Ways & Means - Celia - no raffle tonight.

Webmaster - John - Notice of show on website and general info. He disposes of emails that come to the website and runs a virus scan twice a week.

No further business, Debbie adjourned the meeting at 8:30.

John officiated at Rocky Bingo, Mike a big winner, Barbara & Debbie tied on the last game, blackout bingo.

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
Director At Large	Shanna O'Brien		



Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Membership	Debbie Hirlinger
Bulletin Editor	Open	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.....	Open
Historian.....	Gene Berwager	Parliamentarian.....	Maureen Levitt
Librarian.....	Shanna O'Brien		



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