

# ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills  
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 9  
September 2026

## Club Calendar

**MONDAY**  
**October 5th**  
Business Meeting  
on Zoom  
7 PM

**SATURDAY**  
**October 10th**  
Class-Show  
Meeting  
Thalia's House

**SATURDAY**  
**October 17th**  
Annual Gem  
Show

Dear Rock Chippers,

We had a fantastic September, highlighted by our Member Expedition to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The tour of the "Unearthed: Raw Beauty" exhibit was amazing, and we highly encourage everyone to visit. Special thanks to Mr. Aaron for leading our group.

Here is what we have planned for October:

- Pioneer Day (Chatsworth Historical Society): October 4, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Stop by to support the community and enjoy the games and activities.
- Gem Show Workshop: October 10. Members will gather to finalize details for our upcoming show.
- Gem & Mineral Show: October 17. Our team has worked hard to organize a great outdoor event with something for everyone.

Attending a gem show offers a unique look at Earth's history and human artistry. Supporting our local show directly invests in the artisans, independent makers, and community organizations that keep lapidary arts alive. Please invite friends and family to help spread our passion for lapidary arts, crystals, gems, and minerals.

Finally, we need your help to grow. The Woodland Hills Rock Chippers is entirely volunteer-run, and we are looking for passionate people to join us. Whether you can teach stone carving, manage social media, or assist at our next gem show, your skills will strengthen our community. Please join us at our next monthly meeting on November 21, 2026, at 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307 to learn how you can get involved.

We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

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](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

# JOIN THE **WOODLAND HILLS** ROCK CHIPPERS



**Discover. Cut. Create.**



Connect with fellow rockhounds and lapidary artists.



Learn, create, and share your passion for Earth's treasures.



Help strengthen a welcoming community for enthusiasts of all experience levels.



**CONTACT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON DEBBIE / [WEB:ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG](http://WEB:ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG)**



# 27TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW



PRESENTED BY

**WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS**

**OCTOBER 17, 2026**

**10AM - 5PM**

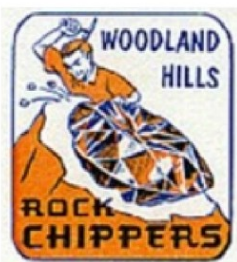


**DEALERS / DISPLAYS / CRAFTS  
RAFFLES / GAMES / COUNTRY STORE  
SILENT AUCTIONS**



**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**



**34th Annual  
Chatsworth Historical Society**

# Pioneer Day

**Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026**

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Bring your children  
& grandchildren

Take the  
Pioneer  
Challenge

**WOODLAND  
HILLS ROCK  
CHIPPERS**



## **Old-time fun for everyone!**

- Panning for Gold
- Blacksmith
- Leather Crafts
- Chores and Games of Yore
- Snack Bar & Bake Sale
- Woodcarvers
- Spinning Wheel Demo
- Design a Quilt Craft
- Rock Chippers
- Bee Keeping
- Telegraph Station
- Butter Churning and more!

**JOIN US!!**

## Chatsworth Museum Exhibits

Featuring  
Chatsworth Equestrian History  
and the history of  
Chatsworth

## Tour the 1911 Homestead Cottage

**Location:** Homestead Acre,  
Chatsworth Park South  
(West end of Devonshire St.)  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA

**Information:** (818) 882-5614  
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com  
www.chatsworthhistory.com

## Admission

## Donation:

Adults: \$5,  
Children: \$1  
(Free for kids under 5)

Park at the north end of Chatsworth Train Depot (10038 Old Depot Plaza Road)  
and use our free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Slate for the 2027 Election of Officers**

Election of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers 2027 Officers will be held at the November 21, 2026 in person General Meeting at the church. If you want to run for any of the offices listed below please contact Debbie or send to our club's email, nominations will be also be taken from the floor at the meeting before the vote.

The newly elected President will fill the open committees/positions, so if you want to participate in any of those please let us know as well.

Here is the slate for 2027 officers of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers:

Paty Mejorado- **President:**

Deborah Hirlinger –**Corporate Administrator /VP**

Barbara Bradbury-**Treasurer**

Celia Barnett-**Secretary**

**Directors-at-Large (3) Required by Membership Count**

Gene Berwager

Steve Dover

Shanna O'Brien

**By the Nominating Committee**

Debbie Hirlinger

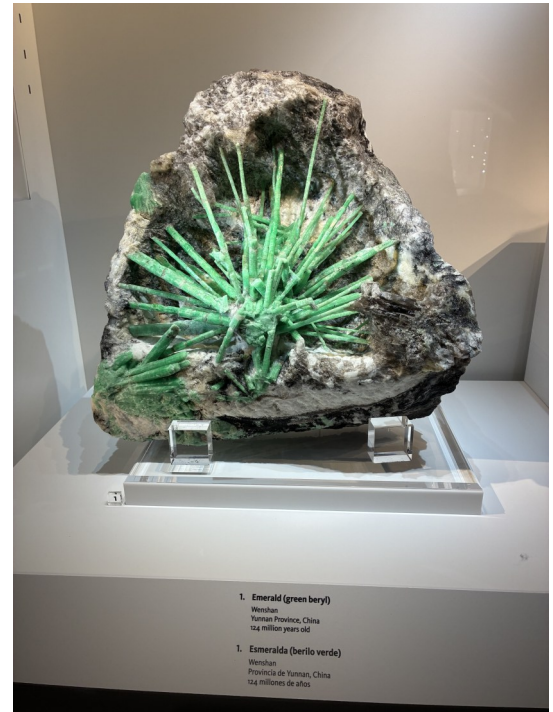
President Paty had arranged for the club members' entrance and parking and that was quite a savings, thank you! We assembled at 9:30 and got our wristbands, Paty, Debbie, Anita, Barbara, John & Shanna, Maureen and I and we went into the Gem & Mineral hall (naturally) to look at our favorites. Shortly we met with Aaron Celestion, head of the department in the new exhibit "Unearthed." There was some exhibit to the right when we entered, but most everyone was stopped in their tracks by the Amethyst Cathedrals with the delicate calcite inclusions. (See pic with Maureen & Paty for scale). It was hard to tear our eyes away from that (right, John?) but Aaron kept us moving to the blue stalactite and the emerald, all the way to the gold crystal. It was about 6" tall, on matrix, and on a special floating platform because it was so top-heavy.

After a tour of these fabulous specimens he showed us his "office" where he had a spectrograph to analyze minerals by nanometers (!) and a device he built from small speakers to use sound waves to levitate water with drops of minerals so the growth could be analyzed. Looked like magic to us! He also explained that the gold normally on exhibit was locked away in their safe when the price of gold skyrocketed. The museum wanted to ensure staff and public safety.

On our way out we revisited our favorite "unearthed" specimens and, stunned by the gorgeousness of them, staggered on to the rest of our day. This one is well worth a visit - or two!  
Celia Barnett, Secretary.

Celia Barnett, Secretary.





**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 15th****September 19th****October show 17th****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

## ***Publisher's Message***

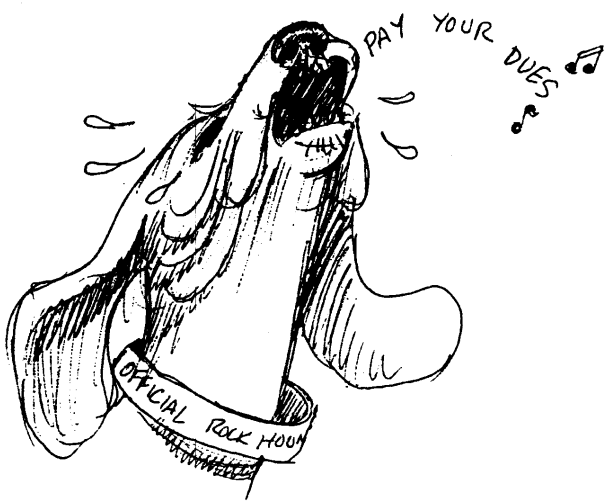
This will probably be the last issue of our newsletter that comes in the familiar format you are used to seeing. There is going to be a discontinuation of the MS Office software I use to prepare it that will necessitate a change in appearance and possibly content, and I ask that you all bear with me while I adjust to preparing the newsletter with different tools. I hope to be able to continue producing it without any interruption every month, and again, I beg your patience and indulgence while I get it straightened out.

Publisher

WHRC

John O'Brien

## ***Maureen's Treasures***



## Birthstone of the Month

### OPAL

#### BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

The name of this, the traditional October birthstone, is believed to have originated in India (the source of the first opals brought to the Western world), where in Sanskrit it was called upala, a “precious stone.” In ancient Rome, this became opalus. Most opals are valued for their shifting colors in rainbow hues – a phenomenon known as “play-of-color.”

The October birthstone’s dramatic play-of-color has inspired writers to compare it to fireworks, galaxies and volcanoes. Bedouins once believed opal held lightning and fell from the sky during thunderstorms. Ancient Greeks thought opals bestowed the gift of prophecy and protection from disease. Europeans long maintained opal to be a symbol of purity, hope and truth. Hundreds of years ago, opal was believed to embody the virtues and powers of all colored stones.

Opal is also the stone given to celebrate the 14th wedding anniversary.

### TOURMALINE

#### BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

Tourmaline is the newer October birthstone. The name comes from the Sinhalese word toramalli, which means “stone with mixed colors,” because it often has multiple colors in one crystal. Very few gems match tourmaline’s dazzling array of colors. Perhaps this is why ancient mystics believed this October birthstone could inspire artistic expression – it has a color palette for every mood. Among the most popular are the pink and red rubellites, the emerald green “chrome” tourmalines, and the neon green and blue-to-violet “paraíba” tourmalines.

Because of its vast range of colors, [tourmaline](#) was often mistaken for other gemstones. One of the “rubies” in the Russian crown jewels, the “Caesar’s Ruby” pendant, is actually red (rubellite) tourmaline. A Spanish conquistador found green tourmaline crystals in Brazil in the 1500s and confused the stones with emerald. These and other cases of mistaken identity continued for centuries until scientists recognized tourmaline as a distinct mineral species in the 1800s.



## **September Class**

We all finished the project! And extra pendants made by John! He discovered a flaw in an old copy of the directions which made the problems we were having practically disappear and making the pendants go much smoother. Donations of pendants were made to the club to be prizes for our Spin-the-Wheel game when we are at the Chatsworth Pioneer Day and for our annual Gem Show.



## **October Class**

*Please Remember that classes are for members only*

We will not be having our usual class. This class will be a workshop to organize and maybe work on items needed for our show. We try to make sure we have liners and tablecloths for the show-cases, check that we have enough prizes for our Spin-the-Wheel and grab bags for our visitors to enjoy. It may include the making of grab bags or assembling other items needed. We encourage everyone who is able to participate to join us. This will be held on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Thalia's at 10am. As always, bring a snack/lunch as sometimes the workshop or class can run long.

## Showcase News



### October Birthdays:

**Maureen, Jean. Pete,  
Steve, Gene**



### Anniversaries:

**None**

WHRC Board meeting  
September 7, 2026  
Zoom

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

Discussion regarding LED lights, per Steve we need 110 volts. Celia will bring club case.

Paty is paying for zoom meetings so we can go longer than 30 minutes.

Meeting called to Order by Paty at 7:06.

Minutes of August Board meeting and general meeting approved.

Treasurer - Per Debbie, Barbara has not received bank statements yet, checks from vendors going to P.O. Box, all is in order. Will give the church a check end of this week.

Audit - No report.

Newsletter - John - Maureen had a calendar issue, John was able to fix activity calendar. Please send stuff early, last Publisher version 10/31. He's checking out new publishing software to see what works the best..

Classes - Shanna - Man wrap for cabs was a great class. Next one is a Francee holder - like for a key fob.

Hospitality - Per Gene Lillian has it up to date.

Corporate Administrator - Debbie - pulled permit, has letter from Franchise Tax Board, they want totals pretty quick. Letter also from Department of Justice - all online. Need to register & raffle and fundraiser figures on a calendar year. Barbara does paper so Debbie may have to upload info.

Insurance - Debbie has forms and it's due day just before the show, hoping to have the Certificate for the show.

Nominating committee - Debbie - nominations will be open next meeting, slate to be published in October newsletter & voting in November. Barbara ok to be Treasurer, Celia - Secretary, Paty - President, Gene - Director, Shanna - Director. Steve will run if we need a Director, since John & Lillian stepping down he'll be a Director. .

Federation - Celia - Received an email from a Jade vendor who will be in the show.

Field trip - Natural history museum 9/13/26, Ocean View mine 9/27/26, we will get parking passes, meet at 9:15 at the gift shop. Paty will send link For Ocean view sign up at September meeting, we have a reservation, need 5 people or may cancel.

Historian - Gene, report in newsletter. Steve has newsletters for 10 years back, will get to Gene.

Library - Shanna - Thalia & Maureen donated books and looking at donating some of our books to make room for the new ones. Will donate for show silent auction. An article about books in library suggested.

Membership - Debbie - received an inquiry about a senior discount.

Program - Paty - September program is prep for show. November program - stories about rockhounding.

Publicity - Paty posted show on Eventbrite. Protest last year affected attendance, more this year.

.Ways & Means - Celia - need rocks for silent auction, will coordinate with Maureen to get some, will have books from Shanna.

Website - John - ok for right now, if anyone has ideas, please submit. Carefully monitoring website.

New Business: Shanna - publicity flyers for show for libraries and will check with CSUN and Pierce for anywhere to post show flyer. Paty will need some for a big show. She's thinking of trying Starbucks, some have a community bulletin board.

Show - Paty - we have a number of vendors. We need tables, John & Shanna need 3, Virginia will need a 6', Steve can donate sawhorses, Celia has 1 table, Thalia 3 card tables. Sawhorses & boards for country store, Maureen has some. Need 6' table for John, 4' table for Debbie and one for Gem Jar. Debbie & Barb have a couple tables. Thalia has 4' table & tablecloths.

Steve - printed bid pages for silent auction, Maureen donating, anyone else? Debbie has some stuff, has hourly prizes, Maureen & Shanna & Stephanie donating for main showcase. Steve, Debbie & Barb will donate. We have 20 prizes so far, Juliet & Anna have donated at last shows, Paty will donate some.

Gene has 5 cases, Celia has club case - prize case? Maureen noted that setting up cases on Saturday morning and rest of stuff will be difficult with so few people. Steve can be out at noon on Friday to help set up, Gene ok with that. Keys are with Shanna & Barbara. Steve will bring ice chest, per Maureen water there already. Shanna has signs from last year but needs silent auction ones, she will make more.

Per Debbie old bathrooms will be available to public, bathrooms by room 10 for vendors and us. Shanna will make restroom signs. Paty says we will need 2 canopies, she has an umbrella, will need a base.

Meeting adjourned 8:14.

Respectfully submitted, Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers

**Minutes of the General meeting September 19, 2026**

Meeting called to order 7:12 PM

Flag salute. No corrections of minutes. Paty welcomed 1 new guest, Cecibel

**Treasurer Report:** Barbara all okay, mailed the church show check

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Club is looking for a new venue for show next year all asked to make some calls find new place for show and monthly meetings.

**Auditor:** Virginia will look at books in December

**Bulletin:** John Publisher getting shut down in October, so please get in articles early to avoid delay of October issue.

**Classes/work shop:** September class by Shanna and Thalia -made Francee pendants, next month final show details no official project, November will be dichroic glass class, details to follow.

**Community outreach:** Thalia reported we are invited to Pioneer Days on October 4<sup>th</sup>, club will add paint a rock to our booth with spin-a-wheel, rings, grab gags, show and tell and demos. Several volunteered, but can always use more help. Maureen has some rocks to use, several volunteers to meet next week at her house.

**Corporate Admin:** Debbie-Permit done for the show, taxes will be due by 11/30/26

**Courtesy/Hospitality:** Lillian Absent

**Display/Education:** Our themed case will be set up at our show, please be prepared to take you items loaned at the end of the show

**Field trips:** Natural History trip was amazing, Aaron was very gracious giving us a behind the scenes tour and showing us around the new exhibit he created "Unearthed raw beauty".

Maureen is a member and was able to get us into the other new Exhibit Orcas: Our shared future. Thanks to Paty for organizing! September 27<sup>TH</sup> trip to Oceanview mine delayed, no sign ups confirmed and still quite hot, look at another date in the future.

**Historian:** Gene Absent

**Insurance:** Received notification, Debbie filled out forms, price increased \$50.00 this renewal, will try to get insurance certificate, renews day before the show. She got check from Barbara to send.

**CFMS:** Celia absent

**Library:** Shanna -Nothing new

**Membership:** Debbie announced the slate for new officers for 2027. If anyone else wants to run please let Debbie know. The vote will be held at the November meeting.

**Programs:** No meeting in October, November program to be finalized, need Dec holiday party input, as room not booked at the church, members have suggested a restaurant for holiday party.

**Publicity:** Shanna handed out flyers to go to the local libraries in a few weeks, several volunteers to take around. Paty updated Facebook and put us on Event brite for more exposure.

**Show Chairman:** Paty finalizing layout, asked about tables chairs, canopies, all outside this year, bathrooms for vendors and members by room 10, bathrooms for the public by main hall entrance. Shanna has made many new signs. Debbie brought banner to Shanna for date change. Debbie brought raffle tickets for sale before the show, thanks to Maureen and Thalia for getting additional tickets printed.

**Web Master:** John-Up to date, will look into updates in 2027

**Ways and Means:** Barbara-Raffle tonight used show raffle tickets, no regular tickets available, Maureen brought many prizes. Thank you.

**Meeting ended:** 8:31 PM- Respectfully submitted, Debbie Hirlinger-Secretary Pro-tem



## 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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