



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and
Mineral Society

Volume 73 Number 10, October 2026

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Events

October 27, 6:30 PM: Member Sale

If you have something to sell, please contact [Jim Herbold](#).

October 27, 7:30 PM: The General Membership Meeting will feature a **DRC Silent Auction**. The Bragging Rights theme is "Petrified Wood".

November 24: The General Membership Meeting will feature a Silent Auction and election.

December 1, 7:30 PM: Board Meeting on Zoom. All Members are welcome to attend. If you want to attend, please contact [Jim Herbold](#).

December 8: The General Membership Meeting will be the Annual Installation Dinner.



Editor's Message

Happy Halloween!

I have included a couple of "Ghost" articles for Halloween, however, one is only a photograph.

My kids were born on November 1 and October 30, five years apart, so Halloween was a big thing at our house, with a Jacob's Ladder and spooky sounds to scare the trick-or-treaters.

Here are articles on the [DRC Sale at the October Meeting](#), [Nominations for the November election](#), and getting ready for the [2027 Show](#). Not to mention more of [Jim Fox's Touch Table](#), which I hope to keep including for a long time to come.

I am asking for help from our members. You could contribute anything from a short "how-to" or "my favorite thing", up to 2 to 3 pages of whatever you think others would find interesting. Rock related photos are also appreciated. The deadline for submissions is the Sunday after each General Meeting.

Do you have anything that other members might enjoy?

Deb Runyan, Breccia Editor

editor@scvgms.org, 408-628-7789

Sunshine



We are all so sad to hear of **Louis Schuesler's** passing. He and his wife were very active in our Club. For the last years he was a mainstay at the hospitality table during our yearly Show. We will miss you, my friend.

If you know of anyone needing some sunshine in their lives, please email **Margo Mosher** at margomosher@yahoo.com.

Passing of Louis Scheusler

Long-time SCVG&MS member Louis Schuesler passed away in his sleep in his beloved town of Los Gatos after fighting several illnesses at the age of 93. A tribute page for Louis has been published [here](#).

He is survived by his wife Patricia (Smith) and his daughter Karen. He and his wife were married for 70 years. He was preceded in death by his sister Elaine and brother Ernest.

One of the things he was most proud of was his time in the National Guard. He was an Intel Specialist in the California Army National Guard with a Field Artillery Unit. He was an E7 Sergeant First Class with 18 years of service.

He would go on to have a lengthy career as a carpenter. His handwork can still be seen in the area. He was involved with the installation of the MRI machine at El Camino Hospital when it was Los Gatos Community Hospital, the Chase Bank in Los Gatos, the gazebo now located off of Summit Road called the Loma Gazebo (he was the original builder when it was built at the Pruneyard) and the shorter of the tall towers at the Pruneyard.

His hobbies included beekeeping, winemaking, bottle collecting, rock collecting, and early on my mother and him were into dancing. He was a founding and lifetime member of the Western Agricultural Society. He was one of the early presidents of the San Jose Antique Bottle Club and a long time member of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society and Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society where he served as membership co-chair and primary meeting greeter; he could always be seen helping his daughter and her husband at gem and mineral shows by watching and walking their dogs.

His life did not start easy. His mother gave birth to him at 17 and they were evicted from their home early on by his Grandfather's new wife. He told stories of standing out on the curb with his mother and sister and their belongings when he was about eight. None of this seemed to affect him except to fuel his

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desire to succeed. Despite this hard start he did succeed.

Services will be held on October 14th at 1pm at Darling Fischer Chapel of the Hills located at [615 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos](#).

In lieu of flowers, donations to The Bee Conservancy can be made through their online donation form at <https://thebeeconservancy.org> or any charity of your choice.

The Santa Clara Gem & Mineral Society will be making a donation to the California Federation of Mineral Societies general endowment in the memory of Louis Scheusler.

It's a Snack (Not a Meal)

An easy way to show support for club activities is to pick a month to bring a snack to our club meeting. Please sign up for a turn to bring enough water, doughnuts or cookies or chips or baby carrots for about forty people.

Snack time is a fun time to meet new people and talk with old friends. It's about connecting over rocks and minerals, not the menu.

The club will reimburse you the same night as the meeting up to \$100 with your receipt.

-Anne Ruiz

Ghost Ranch, NM Storm Cloud



SCVGMS 2027 Show News!

Yes, it's that time of year. Planning for the 2027 Show has started and you are all invited to be part of the planning. Members are invited to be on the Show Committee. New ideas and better ways to make the Show run smoothly are always appreciated. If you would like to be a committee member please call, text or email me. It's a fun evening with pizza. I will also talk about the show at the next Club meeting October 27th.

With that said, our first Show meeting will be Thursday November 5th, 6:30 at the Mt Mike's Pizza, 301 Hamilton Ave., Campbell. We'll discuss what worked and what didn't work for the last Show. Future meetings will be the first Thursday of every month until Show time.

Now for Volunteers

Please mark your 2027 calendars and save the dates March 19, 20 and 21 for this year's Show. I am, as many of you know, the volunteer coordinator. It takes a lot of volunteers to make our largest event of the year a success, and it doesn't happen without you! I hope you sign up for a position you've had in the past, or something else if you'd like to try a new one. Entry and parking are free for volunteers. Be part of this exciting worthwhile Show!!

Thank you very much,

Show Chair

Margo Mosher

408-439-5639 H 408-578-2841

margomosher@yahoo.com



Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

October 9–11 (Friday–Sunday): Field Trip to Jamestown & Bagby, CA, 2.5-hours

Materials: Red- Blue- and Pink Dumortierite, Maraposite

Sponsors: Co-Op Field Trip, and El Dorado County Mineral and Gem

October 10 (Saturday): San Simeon Creek, Cambria, CA, ~3-hours

Sponsor: Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Contact: Rick Hicks, rhicks2354@gmail.com, 805-550-9549

Brecciated Jasper, Orbicular Jasper, Seam Agate, Pink Agate and occasionally Artifacts

October 24 (Saturday): Clear Creek, CA, ~5-hours

Sponsor: Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club

Contact: LeRoy Salas, Tejano1@gmail.com, 209-292-7426

Jadeite, Agate, Petrified Wood, Serpentine, Jasper

December 12 (Saturday): California State Mining and Mineral Museum, Mariposa, CA, ~3-hours

Sponsor: Lodi Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Kaylen Grutman, Best to call 916-664-0004, kgrutman@gmail.com

Museum visit only, no collecting planned.

For questions about field trips

Contact: Stephen May, Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

Phone: 669-248-3993 or 408-306-6782

President's Message

Hi, gem and mineral friends!

As we approach the end of the year (wow!) I want to share with you a few updates about club leadership. This information will tee up our membership vote in November. I want to encourage you to attend the November general meeting to cast your vote.

The only big change is that Stephen May and I will be swapping roles. He's going to be the President for 2027 and I am going to be the Vice President (pending membership approval!). That will allow me to continue with meeting agendas and communications which I am good at and enjoy, and he will run the general and board meetings, which he is good at and enjoys. We've had a strong partnership for years and that will continue. I'm planning to travel more in 2027 and this will give me more flexibility. And Stephen is retiring in January and that will give him lots of time for club activities.

The board is slated to remain the same for 2027. All of the current members are going to continue, pending membership approval. If you would like to consider being on the board as a way to get more involved with the club, let me know. The number of board members we have can be flexible and we want to integrate new voices and energy into our leadership team. The current and 2027 board members are: Jim Herbold (to be Vice President), Stephen May (to be President), Cynthia Porter (Secretary), Frank Mullaney (Treasurer), Deb Runyan (Board), Jim Fox (Board), Missy Fox (Board), Cathy May (Board), Paul Kidman (Board).

Jim and Missy Fox are being nominated to be co-chairs of the Donation Receiving Committee, taking over from Michele Smith. They have been in this role in the past and are well versed with all things DRC.

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If you would consider stepping into a Social Media coordinator role for the club, please let me know. We have not had success finding someone to do this for us in the past, and we are convinced that it could help us attract new members, especially via Instagram and Tik Tok. If you enjoy these platforms, please volunteer for us!

If you would like to volunteer your time and energy to help out and learn from our Treasurer, Frank Mullaney, let me or him know. If you would like to volunteer to manage the summer picnic, please let me know. Other club leadership opportunities may crop up in advance of our November voting, and I will make sure you are aware of all of them.



And finally, to the left, is a fun picture of the entrance to the Emergency Mine in the White Mountains of eastern California at night. Of course, it has to be dark, because we are looking for fluorescent rocks! We did not find much, but the location was super-interesting.

That's it for now, enjoy!

Jim Herbold
SCVGMS President

Nominations for 2027

President: **Stephen May**

Vice President: **Jim Herbold**

Secretary: **Cynthia Porter**

Treasurer: **Frank Mullaney**

Board Members at Large: **Jim Fox, Missy Fox, Paul Kidman, Cathy May, Deb Runyan**

We can have more Board Members, and we want to integrate new voices and energy into our leadership team, so, if you want to volunteer, please let **Jim Herbold** know.

Donation Receiving Committee Chair: **Jim and Missy Fox**

Show Chair: **Margo Mosher**

If you would like to volunteer for these other positions, please let **Jim Herbold** know.

Founder's Day Picnic Chair

Social Media Coordinator

Treasurer's Apprentice

See [SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS](#), on the last page, for a list of other club leadership opportunities, and please volunteer to help us out.

Groan



I ordered a sail for my boat on Amazon.
Then it dawned on me, that it was not the
right size. I called to cancel but, they said
no.

That sail has shipped.



Jim Fox's Touch Table

Amethyst

The name comes from the ancient Greek ἀ μέθυστος, translated to a-méthystos meaning "not" "intoxicated", referring to the belief that the stone protected its owner from intoxication.

This purple variety of quartz (SiO_2) receives its color from the presence of iron (Fe^{3+}) and other trace elements as well as natural irradiation. It's hardness (Mohs 7) is the same as quartz, thus it is suitable for use in jewelry.

The ancient Greeks wore amethyst and made drinking vessels decorated with it in the belief that it would prevent them from getting intoxicated.

Amethyst is a semiprecious stone and is the traditional birthstone for February. South Carolina designated amethyst as the official state gemstone in 1969.

Amethyst's value depends mostly on the intensity of its color. Siberian mines once produced the world's finest stones. They featured a particularly rich purple color that glowed with red and blue flashes. Today the term "Siberian" no longer refers to origins. Instead, this is now a trade and grade term referring to colors similar to those of the amethysts mined in Siberia. Stones with Siberian color command the highest prices. Uruguay produces a beautiful deep purple colored amethyst. Much of the world's amethyst now comes out of Brazil, which also produces many other beautiful stones.



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Ammonite

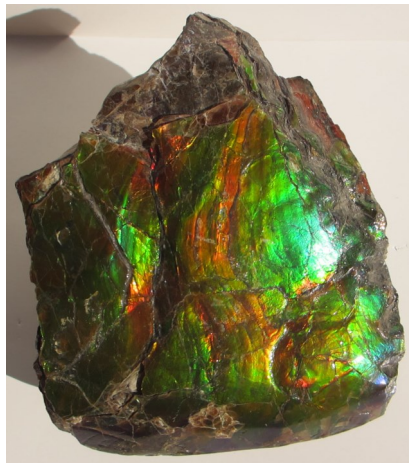
Ammonites are over 70 million years old. They grew from one common ancestor into a genus over fifty thousand species strong. Ammonites filled every ecological niche in the early oceans where they dwelt. Some ammonites were passive plankton feeders that relied on the currents for propulsion. Others, however, were aggressive predators that hunted in packs, jetting along via hydro-propulsion with their powerful, razor-sharp beaks at the ready for feeding.

These creatures were believed to hold, in its time, one of the largest brains, for its size. The largest specimen on record was over ten meters long. Ammonite is the actual fossil while "Ammolite" is the iridescent gemstone that is found on the surface of the Ammonite. Ammolite's luminous qualities rival the black opal for color and fire. The color is created by refraction of light passing through the many layers of the Ammolite shell.

To date, the only place in the world Ammolite is found is in Alberta, Canada. Ammonites were virtually ignored until the early 1960's when they were re-discovered in the river valleys in southern Alberta, Canada. In 1981 the International Federation of Jewelers added Ammolite to its official blue book of gemstones. In 1982 Ammolite was recognized as a precious gem by the Paris based International Confederation of Jewelry, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones. In 1991 Ammolite was named the official gemstone of the Province of Alberta.



Ammonite



Ammolite

The natural hardness of Ammolite is 3.5 to 4 on the Mohs scale.

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Aventurine

Aventurine is a member of the quartz family of minerals and is valued because of its beautiful green color and shimmering reflections. The shimmer is due to light entering the stone and being reflected back by numerous tiny flakes of fuchsite, a green, chromium rich mica. This effect is called "aventurescence".

The most common color of aventurine is green, but other reflective minerals will cause the aventurine to be different colors. Hematite can cause pink, yellow, orange, red, and brown colors. Muscovite and ilmenite can cause the aventurine to be blue, gray, or white.

There is a man made material that somewhat mimics green aventurine. This material is called "aventurine glass" or "greenstone". It is composed of green glass with tiny flecks of copper in it.

Aventurine is found in many places in the world including Brazil, Spain, and Russia, but by far the largest deposits are found in India.



Membership Dues for 2026 and 2027 Are Due

SCVGMS membership dues are due for the years 2026 and 2027. Your dues are essential to the operation of SCVGMS.

Dues are \$5.00 for Junior, \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for the household.

You can easily pay online, at <https://www.scvgms.org/product/membership-dues>

Or

Pay Frank at a meeting

Or

Send your check to Treasurer, Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054, or to: Frank Mullaney, 5705 Begonia Drive, San Jose, CA 95124

Thank you.



Bragging Rights

September's Bragging Rights Theme was "Blue".



*Sleeping Beauty
Turquoise, AZ,
Neil Delfino*

*Angelite Point,
Simon G*



*Apatite,
Madagascar,
Maddie Quaranta*

*Agate with
Druzy Quartz,
Brazil, Anselm
Matthews*



*Brazilian Agate,
Anselm Matthews*

The winner is Neil Delfino's Sleeping Beauty Turquoise.

*Bisby Azurite,
AZ, Missy Fox*



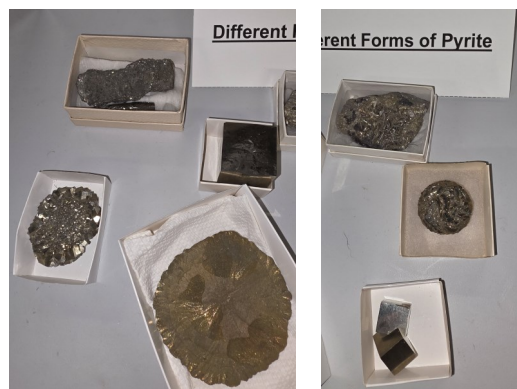
October's Bragging Rights theme is "Petrified Wood".

The program for the November General Meeting will be a Silent Auction so there will be no Bragging Rights.

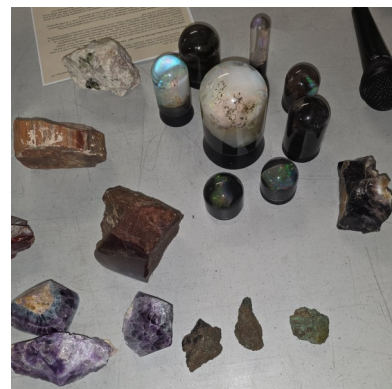
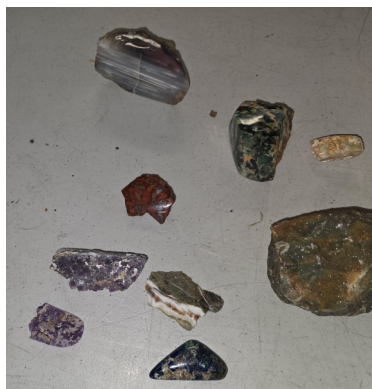
Member Displays



John Bahr's rocks from Camp Paradise



Pyrite samples



Rocks that Stephen May gathered on field trips

Please bring any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, or anything to do with rocks. Sharing items helps to educate us all. Show off what you love, so that we can enjoy it with you.

Hello Rockhounds,

Good news. We are having a **special Silent Auction** during the October 27th meeting. The DRC is donating all of the items so you don't have to bring anything but money. Many of the items will be minerals, along with a donated kiln, centrifuge, etc., and lost wax supplies. I hope to see you there!

During the November meeting we will have our regular **Silent Auction** when our members bring something to sell.

Missy Fox, 408-356-7711

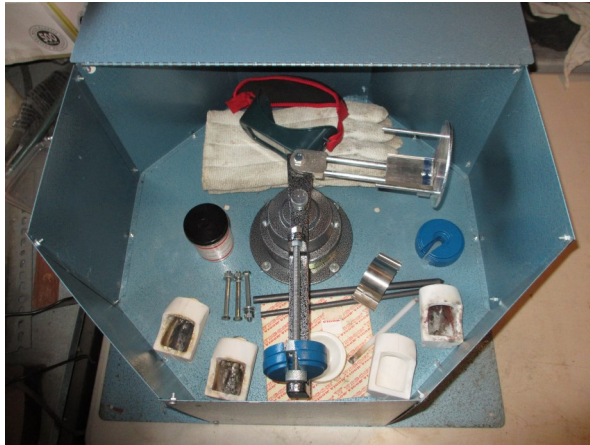
Lost Wax Jewelry Making Equipment

1 electric cleaning pot with lid	2 boxes & 2 bags of small tools
16 steel flasks	32 files in a file holder
1 metal & 5 rubber bases for flasks	2 small bags & 1 container of hand tools
1 lead base for flask	1 mold frame
1 flask with investment	1 ring sizer
1 can molder's silicon mold release	7 wax models
1 hand crucible with metal/wood handle	1 bag with 2 thumb covers
1 pair tongs	1 bag of blank labels & tags
1 pair flask tongs	1 bag with sterling silver Bezel
1 casting tool to hold crucible	3 Wax Pens
1 measuring glass & thermometers	1 Spare Pump for the vacuum
1 Rubber Investment Pot	1 Working Tray
1 Funnel & 1 Measuring Cup	1 bag of books and other information
1 14 " ruler	1 Centrifuge with items inside including:
1 wax injector	Bench Bolts, Goggles, Gloves, 5 ceramic crucibles, 2 crucible holders, 2 carbon rods, and Borax
1 ring mandrel drill	

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Larger Equipment



Centrifuge with items inside



Kiln



Vacuum

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

SCVGMS Website: <https://www.scvgms.org/>

SCVGMS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS): <https://www.amfed.org>

American Lands Access Association (ALAA): www.amlands.org

BLM Rockhounding: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS): <https://cfmsinc.org/>

"CO-OP"—The Cooperative Field Trip Chairmen Association's Website: <https://www.co-opfieldtrips.com/field-trips>

GemKids: <https://gemkids.gia.edu/>

Mindat.org (world's largest open database of minerals, rocks, meteorites): <https://www.mindat.org/>

Smithsonian Science How Webcast Archives: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/school-programs/grades-3-5/smithsonian-science-how/smithsonian-science-how-webcast-archives>

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: <https://www.youtube.com/@nationalmuseumofnaturalhistory>

Beyond 4Cs 23 Amazing Sites For Free Gemology Courses & Resources: beyond4cs.com/free-gemology-courses-and-resources/

Common Minerals & Their Uses: <https://mineralseducationcoalition.org>

Official State Fossils: https://netstate.com/states/tables/state_fossils.htm

Ultimate Beginners Guide to Rock Tumbling: rocktumbling.co/beginners-guide

American Geode: <http://www.americangeode.com/>

The American Opal Society: <http://opalsociety.org>

Rock Tumbler Library: <https://rocktumbler.com/questions.shtml>

Information on Shows

October 3–4, 2026 – Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem and Mineral Society

Shasta District Fairgrounds

1890 Briggs St.

Hours: Sat 9–5, Sun 9–4

Contact: 530-722-7133

sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com,

Web: shastagemandmineral.org

October 10–11, 2026 – Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
and Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society

Community Activities Building

1400 Roosevelt Ave

Hours: Sat & Sun 10–5

Contact: 650-575-3144,

impresciaconstruction@gmail.com

Web: <https://pggs.org/>

October 17, 2026 – West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

First United Methodist Church

22700 Sherman Way

Hours: Sat 10–5

Contact:

barnetttelicia53@gmail.com

Web: <https://rockchippers.org/>

October 17–18, 2026 – Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Ave.

Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5

Contact: 408-691-7823,

vcommons@outlook.com

Web: <http://srmgs.org/>

October 24–25, 2026 – Sacramento

Sacramento Mineral Society

The Scottish Rite Temple,

6151 H Street

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: 916-622-5819,

gemsshow@sacgemshow.com

Web: <https://www.sacgemshow.com/>

October 24–25, 2026 – Orange, CA

American Opal Society

Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S.
Flower St

Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5

Contact: 714-501-9959,

info@opalsociety.org

Web: <https://opalsociety.org/>

[Opal Show Current/](#)

[opal show current.htm](#)

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November 7–8, 2026 – Ridgecrest

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society

Desert Empire Fairgrounds

520 S. Richmond Rd.

Hours: 9–5

Contact: showchairman@iwgms.org

Web: <https://iwgms.org>

November 14–15, 2026 – Concord

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: show@ccmgclub.com

Web: <https://www.ccmgsclub.com/>

2027

March 6–7, 2027 – Newark, CA

East Bay Mineral & Lapidary Club

Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave.

Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5

Contact: 510-353-3787,

info@ebml.club

Web: <https://ebml.club/>

March 6–7, 2027 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds,

10 W Harbor Blvd

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: info@vgms.org

Web: <https://www.vgms.org/>

Mini Miners Monthly

July Mini Miners Monthly—All about Fluorite

The July issue of Diamond Dan's Mini Miners Monthly was deactivated before a lot of people downloaded it. Darryl has graciously reactivated it for us.

Get it while the gettin's good!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7p5nfvgr0bkmjna07a0a/Mini-Miners-Monthly-July-2026.pdf?rlkey=sv5yabxp35n10mu095prcajip&st=ebgcw6lk&dl=0>

Thanks Darryl!

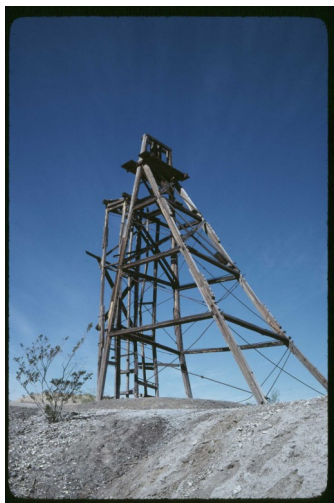
A Ghost Town for Halloween

Old Mercury Mining Town near Terlingua, TX

My Dad, William Miner, took these photos on March 3, 1981. He and my Mom were going from Los Alamos, NM to visit Big Bend National Park.

Dad was a metallurgist, with a degree from Colorado School of Mines, and so was interested in mining. He worked on some of the new tunnels in Colorado in the 40's. He was the man who would slit the dynamite and shove it into the predrilled holes. Not a job many would take!

-Deb Runyan



Curiosity Rover Discovers Opal Gems on Mars with Clues to Watery Past

By Elizabeth Rayne

Water-rich opals may one day provide a source of water on the Martian surface.



A view of Gale Crater captured by NASA's Curiosity Mars rover. (Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech)

More than just a shimmering stone, opal—which is rich in water—has now been found in Mars' Gale Crater by NASA's Curiosity Rover.

Martian water ice is abundant at the [poles](#) but not so much at the equator (where Gale Crater is located). NASA's [Curiosity Mars rover](#), which is currently exploring the crater, had previously beamed back data from its [DAN \(Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons\)](#) spectrometer, which was then analyzed by a team of researchers. In both older and newer Curiosity images, they noticed fracture halos, rings of light-colored sediment, that stood out because of their color; further tests proved that the light rock was actually opal.

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Because opal is predominately composed of water and silica, the presence of this mineral could mean that there was once enough water there to possibly make the depths of these cracks habitable. Furthermore, the opal currently on Mars may one day be able to be harvested for the water stored inside, offering a source of water for any crewed missions to the Red Planet.

Mars is a barren and sun-blasted planet. The amount of [radiation](#) on the planet's surface makes it inhospitable to life as we know it. However, inside subsurface fractures, there is a much darker environment better protected from the intense radiation that is constantly bombarding Gale Carter on the outside. Water-rich opals inside these fractures makes their discovery even more exciting.

"Seeing that these fracture networks were so widespread and likely chock-full of opal was incredible", research physicist Travis Gabriel, formerly of the University of Arizona, said in a [statement](#). "Given the widespread fracture networks discovered in Gale Crater, it's reasonable to expect that these potentially habitable subsurface conditions extended to many other regions of Gale Crater as well, and perhaps in other regions of Mars. These environments would have formed long after the ancient lakes in Gale Crater dried up."

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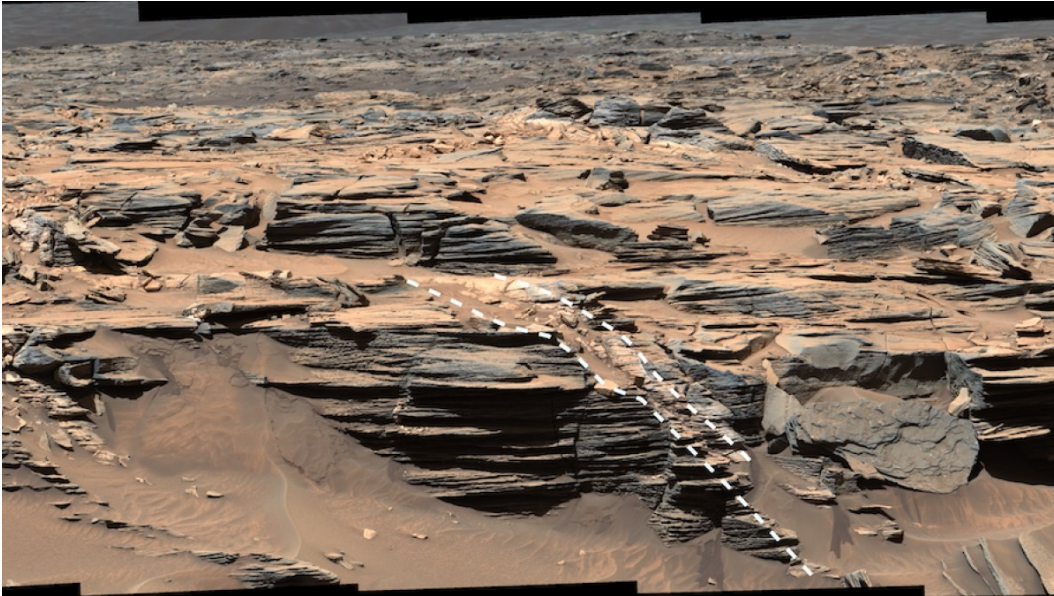
Screams



Natural holes in a rock cliff in Molina, Italy looking like a ghostly face, screaming.



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Light-toned fracture halos as seen crosscutting the bedrock extend into the subsurface. These fracture networks would have served as safe havens from harsh surface conditions in a modern period on Mars. Photo courtesy Malin Space Science Systems/NASA/JPL-Caltech

Gabriel and his colleagues think evidence of opal possibly means that the fracture halos on Mars were some of the last places that had an abundance of liquid water, and that Mars may have dried up after they formed.

Opals form from a solution of water and silica. On Earth, solutions like this occur in geysers and hot springs as well as at the bottom of bodies of oceans and other bodies of water. When particles of silica settle at the bottom of the solution, they begin to create an opal. It is possible to harvest water from opals because, while they may sparkle, they are not actually minerals.

Minerals have a tightly bound crystalline structure, but the structure of an opal is more loosely bound, meaning water can be extracted from it. Astronauts who explore Mars in the future might have a significant water source in fracture halos if more opal can be found. According to the statement, a fracture halo 1 meter in diameter "could house roughly one to 1.5 gallons of water in the top foot of the surface".

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This find has now given the [Perseverance rover](#) a new focus. If fracture halos containing opal exist on Gale Crater, they may also be somewhere in [Jezero Crater](#), where Perseverance is searching for signs of past life. Jezero Crater is already confirmed to have once been a lake, so there may be more Martian opal waiting to be unearthed.

The research is described in a paper published in the [Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets](#).

Source: <https://www.space.com/mars-opals-water-habitable>

Article appeared in AOS newsletter in February 2023

The Opal Express, The American Opal Society, February 2026

Smiles

I saw a group of rabbits, all walking backwards.
It was a receding hare line.

I just found out the company that makes yardsticks won't be making them any longer.

What is it called when a child refuses to go to sleep at night?
Resisting a rest.

How do Rockhounds like to relax?
In rocking chairs, of course!

Who is a Rockhound's favorite comedian?
Chris Rock.

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jim Herbold, 650-743-3254

Vice President: Stephen May, 408-306-6782

Secretary: Cynthia Porter, 408-978-5848

Treasurer: Frank Mullaney, 408-691-2656

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox, 408-356-7711

Missy Fox, 408-356-7711

Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995 (Alternate Federation Director)

Cathy May, 408-248-3993

Deb Runyan, 408-628-7789

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Cesar Nuñez

Breccia Editor: Deb Runyan

Donation Receiving Committee Chair:

Fairgrounds Booth Chair:

Fairgrounds Liaison: Frank Mullaney

Fairgrounds Volunteer Coordinator: Margo Mosher

Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May

Founder's Day Bingo: TBD

Founder's Day Picnic Chair: Jim Herbold

Founder's Day Raffle: TBD

Hospitality: Margo Mosher

Installation Dinner: TBD

Member Displays: TBD

Refreshments: TBD

Show Chair: Margo Mosher

Silent Auction: TBD

Sunshine: Margo Mosher

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: inbox@scvgms.org

Phone Number [408-265-1422](tel:408-265-1422)

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. **General meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:00 followed by the meeting at 7:30 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months.

This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published 11 times annually. The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after each general meeting. The Breccia editor is **Deb Runyan** who may be contacted by email at editor@scvgms.org and by phone at 408-628-7789. The Breccia is proofread by **Pat Speece** and **Sonia Dyer**.

Exchange bulletins may be emailed to editor@scvgms.org. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.