



The CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, located in Culver City, California, brings together persons interested in the earth sciences to engage in research and study, to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.

## Our April Program Goes Virtual

On Sunday, March 29, the Club's Board of Directors and Executive Committee held its first virtual meeting. It was a dry run to test using the Zoom cloud meeting system to get together while maintaining social distancing. Similar video-conferencing systems have been available for a long time now, but Zoom has become among the most popular lately, due to its ease of use, reliability, generous free account terms, and compatibility with all platforms.



The upcoming April 13 virtual meeting will be a chance to maintain our sense of community, as well as discuss routine Club business. Details are still being worked out, but it is likely to include a slideshow presentation by Club VP Steve Dover, on Death Valley National Monument / Park, plus its gems and minerals. Steve will share facts about 40 of his favorite backcountry locations, including desert, marble-lined canyons, old ghost towns, mines and cabins, beautiful overlooks, spring-fed lakes and hot springs, 10,000-foot peaks with bristlecone pines, geological wonders, giant dunes, desert wildlife, and much more.

Stay tuned to your email for further details closer to the date of the meeting, including the hyperlink to join. The Club will also likely host an information session or two in the days beforehand, to give members who aren't as savvy with video-conferencing a chance to practice, get their devices all set up, and say hello with other members.

Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Even if you don't have a webcam or smartphone yourself, if you're able to read The Nugget on a computer, you likely already have enough to participate. You'll view the presentation with any computer, and may call in with a regular phone to take part in the discussion.

You can install the Zoom app on your device from their website, or the appropriate app store:

- [Zoom Website](#)
- [Apple Store](#)
- [Google Store](#)

Submitted by  
**Darren Cokin**

## General Meetings

General meetings will be held the second Monday of every month at 7:30 pm on Zoom until it is safe to resume in person meetings. **Guests are always welcomed!**

Upcoming Programs

- April 13 – Gems & Minerals at Death Valley National Monument
- May 11 – To be announced
- June 08 – To be announced



## March Program Report

Renée began her Diamond PowerPoint by showing us the most expensive gem ever sold at auction, the CTF Pink Star, a 59.6-carat Vivid Pink diamond that fetched \$71.2 million at Sotheby's Hong Kong in April 2017. Next, we learned curious facts about the Hope Diamond and Koh-I Noor Diamond, which were discovered in India. Today, the three main sources of diamonds are Russia, Botswana, and Canada. An insignificant number of diamonds have been found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. It's the only diamond-bearing site in the world where visitors can look for diamonds and keep what they find. The largest diamond ever found there was the Uncle Sam Diamond, which weighed 40.23 carats in the rough.

Some people wonder why diamonds have been so highly valued when there are other gems that are rarer. It's not just because of marketing, Diamonds have intrinsic properties that set them apart from other gems and materials. They are harder than any other natural substance; they have a greater potential for brightness than any other gem; they withstand high temperatures; they resist radiation and all chemicals; they can conduct heat better than any other material but yet are a good electrical insulator and they are non-toxic.

Renée showed how to distinguish lab-grown and imitation diamonds from natural diamonds and then discussed eight diamond price factors: color, carat weight, clarity, cut quality, cutting style & shape, creator, transparency and treatment status, which she calls the 6 Cs and 2 Ts. Then we learned the difference between clarity and transparency and saw photo examples of various degrees of transparency in diamonds. Afterward, Renée explained how various diamond treatments affect their prices while showing us before and after photos of treated diamonds. This was followed by a summary of why you need to consider more than just the 4 Cs to make accurate diamond price comparisons. You can get more information on diamonds from her [Diamond Handbook](#) and newly published [Diamond Ring Buying Guide](#) which are available on Amazon.

Submitted by  
**Ken Rogers**  
Programs Chair

## President's Message

The CoronaVirus is filling the media lately. It is disrupting aspects of our daily lives, is projected to get worse, and is not expected to be over soon.

And our Club is not immune. On the advise of national, state and city health officials, we are cancelling all activities through the end of the summer. We will re-evaluate things in September. Unfortunately, this includes our Fiesta of Gems Show. We have told our vendors that we hope to see them next year.

Yes, the virus is threatening, but it is also a problem that we can learn to live with. We have to educate ourselves. Some projections say we may have to deal with it for 18-24 months before an effective vaccine becomes available. Members of our Club obviously believe in life-long learning. We have a bent for more knowledge of earth history and earth science. So learning how to keep your family safe in the face of a pandemic is just another step. Many good, trusted sources exist for educating yourself. Get in touch if you'd like my list.

And while it's best to stay home, I urge you to keep in touch with folks you'd ordinarily see at Club activities by phone or email.

We'll get through this. Take care everyone.

**Brad Smith, President**

# The Crazy True History of the Saddle Ridge Gold Coins

The “Saddle Ridge Treasure” is what many are calling the now-historic discovery of [\\$10 million worth of gold coins](#) buried in decaying tin cans on the property of one very lucky — and anonymous — California couple.



<https://www.finestknown.com/2019/04/30/1805-2-2/>

These 1,427 Liberty head coins were minted between 1855 and 1894, and were actually discovered a year ago in eight canisters dotting the couple’s Northern California property. The 19th century coinage has since been authenticated by Kagin’s, a California-based agency that authenticates U.S. currency, and the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS). Next week, a sampling of the coins will go on display at the American Numismatic Association National (ANA) Money Show in Atlanta.

As people look over the plastic-encased coins, each with a special gold-colored “Saddle Ridge Hoard” PCGS certification foil, they may wonder where such a hoard came from.

We may have found the answer.

“It’s extremely unusual to find this many U.S. coins, especially gold, all together in one place. It’s a very special and unusual hoard,”

said ANA Director Douglas Mudd, who also served as collection manager at the Smithsonian Institution National Numismatic Collection for over a decade.

Mudd told Mashable that while stockpiles of paper and even coin U.S. currency have been found before, the next largest discovery was worth \$4,500 in face value (not the market value of the gold, but the denomination total).

According to the PCGS, the majority of these coins are \$20 denomination Liberty Double Eagles struck at the San Francisco Mint. With approximately 1,400 gold coins, that gives them a total face value of roughly \$28,000 — remember that number.

The coins were found in badly decaying, unmarked tins buried — some up to 1 foot deep — somewhere in Northern California. Safe to say that someone didn’t want them to be found.

Even Mudd wonders about the circumstances. “How did \$28,000, which was a lot of money back then, come to be buried in that spot?”

Mudd said there are a number of ways such a hoard is created. Often, they come from people who didn’t trust banks, stashing away all their money in a hiding spot — like a mattress, underground vault or tin they buried in the back yard — which was known only to them. They die before retrieving their stored cash, and someone else stumbles upon it years later.

The other option is more of the classic movie western style where bandits make off with the money, but with the authorities in hot pursuit. So they bury the loot and come back later to retrieve it — unless they never get to.

“There are a lot of possibilities, but I haven’t heard anything to suggest what could have happened,” said Mudd.

There are, of course, ways to figure out what happened. The Kagin company, which is overseeing the Saddle Ridge Exhibition and sale of the coins on Amazon.com, hasn’t offered much information about the provenance of the coins, but Mudd says they could potentially date the cans “if there’s enough info on them.”

Kagin’s Communication Director Kirsten Marquette told Mashable, however, “I’ve seen the cans in person and you can’t see anything on them. They’re rusted.”

Another option is doing a lost property or theft search.

“Was there a major theft or did something happen where these coins went missing at some point?” pondered Mudd.

## Smoking Gun?

Considering that these coins had probably been buried for more than a century, we dug through microfiche files from old California newspapers, ones that were in print in



<https://forums.collectors.com/discussion/1010871/saddle-ridge-hoard-premium-i-am-seeking-any-straight-forward-opinion>



# The Crazy True History of the Saddle Ridge Gold Coins con't

the 19th century, like the San Jose Mercury News. Luckily, Google has been digitizing a tremendous amount of dead-tree media, including out-of-print books, magazines and newspapers.

A search on Books.google.com for "stole," "1000," "gold," "coins," "from" "San Francisco." brings up a curious note from an the Bulletin of The American Iron and Steel Association, an industry newsletter published every two weeks by an organization now known as the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Tucked into the Aug. 10, 1901 issue, between political and financial notes and the latest obituaries was this little tidbit:

We were unable to find any other reference to that theft or any similar theft within any other archive document, so we reached out to the source.

When Mashable first spoke to American Iron and Steel Institution Manager of Communications Rachel Gilbert about the bulletin, she had no idea what we were talking about. "We deal with iron and steel. We do not cover the gold industry. Maybe you should try to talk to the gold institute."

Still, she agreed to take a look at the link and get back to us.

A few hours later Gilbert confirmed that the Bulletin was from the AISI (then known as the American Iron and Steel Institute). "At the top of the document it lists the leadership staff of institute at that time. I was able to verify that it was us." She told Mashable that the staff at the AISI was "pretty amused" by the discovery and thought she might spend some time perusing the century-old newsletters.

## Stolen Coins

Obviously, the report of the theft comes six years after the latest mint date on the Saddle Ridge Hoard coins. Still, if the coins were taken from the Mint cashier, they may have pulled them from a certain area where similar denominations and mintings were all gathered together. The news was big enough that it made an industry trade sheet, but owing to how news traveled back then, it did not become legendary.

Perhaps the thieves did as Mudd imagined. They had their hoard, but were being chased and simply buried all of it with a plan to return, dig it up and live a very happy life.

When we contacted the U.S. Mint to see if they have any

records of such a theft, Adam Stump deputy director, Office of Corporate Communications quickly deflated our balloon, "We have no information linking those coins to any thefts at any United States Mint facility.



David Hall, co-founder of Professional Coin Grading Service, poses with some of 1,427 Gold-Rush era U.S. gold coins, at his office in Santa Ana, CA. AP Photo/Reed Saxon

Surviving agency records from the San Francisco Mint have been retired to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), under Record Group 104. Access to the records is under NARA's jurisdiction: <http://www.archives.gov/>

Apparently Stump forgot about Walter Dimmick. According to a post on the U.S. Mint's own "H.I.P. Pocket Change" children's website, Dimmick worked as a chief clerk at the San Francisco Mint between, according to AlteredDimensions, 1898 and 1901. In a post called "Thieves Among Us," the U.S. Mint describes how the San Francisco Mint discovered that six bags of gold coins worth \$30,000 had gone missing.

Dimmick went to prison and the 1,500 gold coins were never found.

Until, perhaps, now.

<https://mashable.com/2014/02/26/saddle-ridge-gold-coins-stolen-1898/>

On March 4, 2014, The U.S. Mint stated that "[they] do not have any information linking the Saddle Ridge Hoard coins to any thefts at any United States Mint facility", and "[they've] done quite a bit of research, and we've got a crack team of lawyers, and trust me, if this was U.S. government property we'd be going after it.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddle\\_Ridge\\_Hoard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddle_Ridge_Hoard)

Submitted by  
**Devon Lloyd**  
Minerals Chair

# General Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Brad Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was made. Quorum was established. The following announcements were made:

- Brad Smith informed that two mineral shows were coming up: the Stoddard Wells Tailgate Rockhound in Victorville and the South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show.

- Adrienne Louie discussed preparation activities for the show. She asked for plant pot donations and announced a plant cutting meeting would be held on May 9. Postcards would be available in a week and they would be prepared for mailing at the May meeting, when an ice cream social would also be held. The grab bags would be made at the June meeting. Adrienne also requested book and magazine donations to sell at the show. A member suggested making arrangements with plants and rocks to sell at the show.

- Janice Metz announced the upcoming workshops in March and April and informed there would be 8 workshops at the show. Steve Dover added that instructors were also available at the shop to teach lapidary basics.

- Ken Rogers asked members to recommend a speaker for the April meeting. He announced the Bead Bazaar would take place on April 19, and the third Club yard sale would take place on April 25.

- Alexa Hunter and Karen Wallen reported they had conducted a successful science night at Farragut Elementary school.

- Devon Lloyd informed he was organizing a field trip to Bakersfield in early April. He would also organize a local trip to hound agates in Santa Monica and Santa Clarita and a trip to Oceanview mine in San Diego.

- Stephanie Dangott reminded that the annual membership dues had to be paid that day. She requested help to maintain the members database and a member volunteered.

- Veronique Gautherot requested volunteers to organize the refreshments for the monthly meetings after June.

- Brad Smith informed that flyers advertising the show were available to members for distribution to friends and family.

The February General Meeting minutes were approved as read in the March Nugget.

Gary Mitchell announced that a raffle would be held that evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Submitted by  
**Ana Strambi Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

# Executive Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2020

Those present: Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Alexa Hunter, Adrienne Louie, Janice Metz, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Rick Shaffer, Brad Smith, Ana Strambi Guimaraes, Karen Wallen, Janelle Williams.

Meeting called to order by President Brad Smith at 6:50 PM.

Brad Smith informed that two mineral shows were coming up - the Stoddard Wells Tailgate Rockhound in Victorville and the South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show.

The following reports were made:

Fiesta of Gems Report - Brad Smith said the show would be cancelled if Culver City started closing schools and cancelling public meetings as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Show Chair Adrienne Louie indicated that the postcard mailer would be done at the May meeting and the grab bags at the June meeting. She informed she had collected changes for the postcard. Brad Smith listed the electric fixtures that needed to be addressed in the auditorium: there isn't an extra transformer, two sockets on the floor do not work, the P.A. does not work on room speakers and the stage needs white light instead of colored light. The Club also needed to rent stairs for the stage. Adrienne informed she would set up a plant cutting session on May 9 and a show meeting a week later.

Program Report - Ken Rogers informed he had not yet secured a speaker for April and asked for suggestions.

Workshop Report - Janice Metz indicated there were two workshops in March and two in April, and that seven of eight show workshops had been booked.

Ken Rogers asked if the Club had demonstrators for the Bead Bazaar and Janice Metz confirmed she would be demonstrating. Ken said he would be there and have Club membership applications.

Membership Report - Stephanie Dangott informed she needed help with maintaining the membership database, as Jan Ferguson was resigning.

Social Report - Steve Dover confirmed the summer picnic would take place in August 15. Ken Rogers indicated more material was needed for the silent auction.

Treasurer Report - Darrell Robb provided the balance of the club's accounts and informed the club remained solvent.

Education Report - Alexa Hunter and Karen Wallen reported they had conducted a successful science night at Farragut Elementary school.

Other Business - Rick Shaffer provided an account of a Culver City meeting where the mayor and vice-mayor discussed potential projects for the park and area where the shop, the scout house and tennis court are located. Options ranged from building low income housing to preserving the park land.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Submitted by  
**Ana Maria Strmbi Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

# Lapidary Shop is closed until further notice

## Upcoming CFMS Shows

Many clubs have cancelled or changed their show dates due to Covid-19 social distancing orders.

Please check the CFMS website for the most up to date information on upcoming shows.

<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>

April 3-5: Vista, CA **CANCELLED**

Vista Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: (760) 659-6545

Email: [vistarocksgms@gmail.com](mailto:vistarocksgms@gmail.com)

Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

April 4-5: Chico, CA **CANCELLED**

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Trish Haggerty, (530) 966-5112

Email: [hagboyz5@gmail.com](mailto:hagboyz5@gmail.com)

Website: [www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)

April 4-5: Reno, NV **CANCELLED**

Reno Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-2442

Email: [greybeard65@hotmail.com](mailto:greybeard65@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

April 11-12: Mariposa, CA **CANCELLED**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club

Contact: Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535

Email: [mgmc@sti.net](mailto:mgmc@sti.net)

Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 18-19: Paso Robles, CA **CANCELLED**

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Contact: (805) 610-0603,

Email: [slockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:slockhounds@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.slockhounds.org/show.html>

April 18-19: Thousand Oaks, CA **CANCELLED**

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: (818) 889-1798

Email: [rich\\_phil@msn.com](mailto:rich_phil@msn.com), [lkofagoura@gmail.com](mailto:lkofagoura@gmail.com)

Website: <https://cgamc.org/>

April 25-26: Arcadia, CA **CANCELLED**

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Contact: (727) 512-0381

Email: [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org)

Website: <http://pasadenalapidary.org>

April 25-26: Lancaster, CA **CANCELLED**

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom (661) 406-0143

Email: [slchaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:slchaisson@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.avgem.weebly.com](http://www.avgem.weebly.com)



Janie Metz	April 4
Richard Shaffer	April 8
Janet Gampe	April 10
Delia Lozano	April 10
Darren Cokin	April 12
James Powers	April 14
Jette Dvorak	April 24
Paul Esposito	April 25
Stephanie J. Dangott	April 27

## Welcome to Our New Members

Jed Bradshaw  
Carla Cain  
Joella Campbell  
Ryan Campbell  
Maria Grover  
Sara Luchien

# the Nugget - Submissions

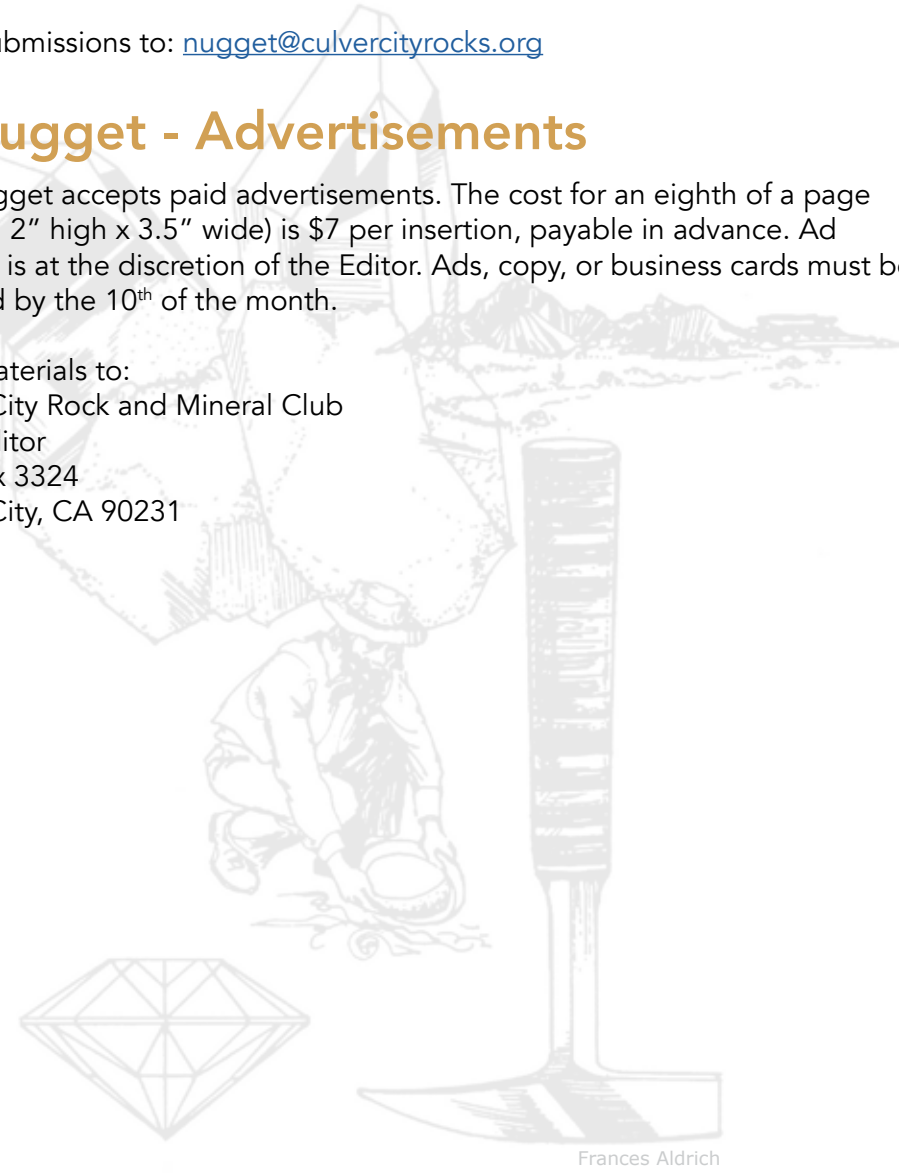
Submissions deadline is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted. Photographs without credits are shot by a CCRMC member. Permission to use photography is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

Email submissions to: [nugget@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:nugget@culvercityrocks.org)

# the Nugget - Advertisements

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page (approx. 2" high x 3.5" wide) is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ads, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send materials to:  
Culver City Rock and Mineral Club  
Attn: Editor  
P.O. Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231



Frances Aldrich

## 2020 Elected Officers

**President**  
Brad Smith

**Vice President**  
Steve Dover

**Treasurer**  
Darrell Robb

**Recording Secretary**  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Véronique Gautherot

**Parliamentarian**  
Jon P. Gowling

### Committee Chairs

- Education – Karen Wallen
- Federation Director – Rick Shaffer
- Field Trips Chair – Devon Lloyd
- Historian – Virginia Hollis
- Librarian – Andrea Fabian
- Membership – Stephanie Dangott
- Membership Co-Chair – Laura Seffer
- Minerals Chair – Devon Lloyd
- Photography – Pam Leitner
- Programs – Ken Rogers
- Publications Chair – Janet Gampe
- Publicity – Janice Metz
- Show – Adrienne Louie
- Shop Committee – President, Vice President & Shop Instructors
- Social Co-Chairs – VACANT
- Sunshine – Felice Ganz
- Trading Post – Gary Mitchell
- Web Master – Jette Sorensen
- Workshops – Janice Metz

### Board of Directors

**2020**  
Anna Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Bruce Mensinger

**2021**  
Franne Einberg  
Gary Mitchell

## Stay In Touch



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The CCRMC is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization.