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Message from the President

We have had another outstanding 2023 Gem and Mineral Show thanks to Cindy Pugsley and all of the volunteers who participated this year. Thank you all for supporting the Club.



One of our 2023 Gem and Mineral Show vendors!

Scholarship Assistance Program for Gem Club Classes

Scholarships funds are still generously available, thanks to the City of Durango Lodger's Tax Fund. A scholarship pays 2/3 the cost of tuition for weekend classes offered during the year. If your cost of living is high but wages are low, these funds can help you learn new, valuable skills and make beautiful objects. Scholarship applications are available at www.durangorocks.org/classscholarship.

Upcoming Classes in August

The Club is pleased to announce an exciting lineup of classes in August including Enameling with Stencils and Dinosaur Bone Cabochons. This is a great opportunity to learn a new skill or just have fun creating something new.

You can check on upcoming events at the [Four Corners Gem and Mineral Club Events Calendar - Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club \(durangorocks.org\)](https://durangorocks.org/events-calendar).

Open Shop Hours

Open Shop is closed until we can install new security cameras inside and outside the building. The cameras are on order, and we hope to have them installed soon. Thanks for your patience.



When reopened, Open Shop Hours will be:

Tuesday 1-4 pm

Tuesday 6:30-9 pm

Wednesday 9am-noon

Wednesday 1-4 pm

Thursday 1-4 pm

Thursday 6:30-9 pm

First & Third Saturdays 10am-2pm

See [calendar](#)

Open Shop Punch Card

If you like using open shop, remember we have a punch card for multiple use. [Prepurchase](#) 10 visits for \$45 - a \$5 savings - and don't worry about having your "shop fee" when you come in!

Reminder About Expectations in the Club

The FCGMC is a wonderful organization composed of members with many different interests, and personalities. Sometimes interacting can lead to disagreements or conflicts. I would like to remind you to do your best to be professional and respectful while working in the Shop or attending FCGMC sponsored events. Article VII of our Bylaws states, "The Club expects all members and participants at Club functions to

act in a professional, ethical, and lawful manner.” As members of our Club, I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to read this part of the Bylaws that are available in the Shop and [posted here on our website](#). It is important that we all are aware of the rules and guidelines that govern the Club.

Rock On: "Mountains of Silver"

For the past two months I have worked in the La Plata Mountains as part of a mapping project with the State of Colorado. You might be thinking, wow what a job, but I will tell you that this fascinating mountain range is steep, rugged and unforgiving. This month I will share some photos of the places and features I have encountered.

First, a brief review of how and when these mountains formed. About 70 million years ago, melted rock formed in the earth (i.e., magma) rose into the layered rocks in the area. This injection of magma lifted and tilted the sedimentary rocks into a dome-shaped uplift that geologists called a laccolith. The injection of magmas also led to other interesting events. When the hot, melted rock interacted with the various sedimentary rocks it opened up Mother Nature's Bakery. The heat and fluids from the magma caused the chemical ingredients in the rocks to transform into what is known as a skarn. In the La Plata Mountains, these metamorphic rocks are found in mineral locations and hold a variety of minerals including garnet, pyroxene, magnetite, specular hematite, green epidote, calcite, and some sulfide minerals such as pyrite and chalcopyrite.

The injection of magmas and subsequent uplift also led to fracturing of rocks. Hot fluids laden with metals moved along these fractures and deposited concentrations of gold, silver, copper, lead and other elements.

The majestic and awe-inspiring relief in the La Plata Mountains arose from glaciation and river erosion that sculpted this range into what we observe today. Below are some photos from this range that I hope you enjoy.



The Gold King tram house at Lewis Creek. This was once one of the main transport points of ore from the mines around Lewis Creek.



The top of Snowstorm Peak on one of the few cold and wet days this summer.



A curious marmot on my hike home. One its relatives chewed a hole in my fuel line which mad for an interesting journey home. Beware the marmots!



The Colorado State flower, the columbine. The slopes were coated with these flowers this summer.



A view from near a tower of granodiorite looking west at Mt. Moss.



The towering east flank of Hesperus Peak. The banded appearance of the mountain is created by light colored layers of igneous rocks (sills) that intruded the Mancos Shale and caused over 1000 feet of uplift. The sharp and rugged terrain was caused by glacial and fluvial sculpting.



The eroded plutonic rocks of Lavender Peak showing off its pinnacles of rock. I think this is one of the toughest climbs in the La Plata Mountains.



A great example of porphyritic gabbro (“lamprophyre”) exposed on the highline trail.



Sharkstooth peak viewed from the flank of Centennial Peak looking northeast towards the Needle Mountains.



My tired son, Alex, after a long day of hiking. The wind was blowing about 30 miles an hour which gave us reprieve from the voracious mosquitos.



The Bonnie Girl mine near the headwaters of Tirbircio Creek.



The daunting east side of Lewis Mountain. Though the photography does not do this flank the true justice, it is a steep flank with over two thousand feet of relief.



The majestic Silver Mountain viewed from Eagle Pass looking south. Silver Mountain is capped by a sill of igneous rock with flanks of metamorphosed sedimentary rock.



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