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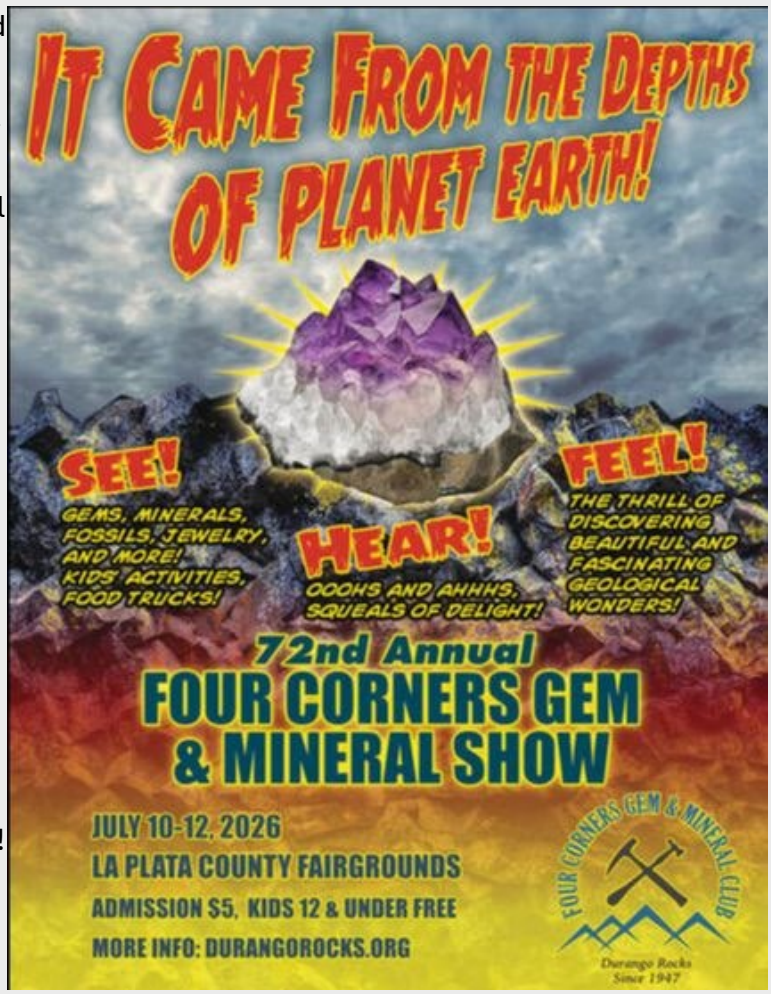
May 2026 Newsletter

Message from the President

So many exciting things going on at the the Club!

Excitement is Building! Since the last newsletter our Building Committee has met several times. The energy and excitement is contagious and palpable. Please read more about this committee's work below.

Planning for the 72nd Gem and Mineral Show is in full swing. We have a full slate of rock, gem, mineral and fossil dealers from across the U.S. and around the world. **Please volunteer for this popular event**: [sign up here](). Volunteers receive a free 3-day pass to browse the show at their leisure. A big thank you to Carl Lindeman for the poster's fun art work!



Pssst ... Gem Show meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 5:15 pm.

Welcome Center Window. Every year Durango's Welcome Center generously shares its large window space to feature our Club and Gem Show. Will you help create this very prominent display? Our setup is on June 29th by noon, and the display will remain in place for 2 weeks. Just reply to this email.

4th of July Parade. What could be more fun? The Club is signed up for Durango's Wet and Wild 4th of July Parade to be held at 4:30 pm on Saturday July 4. We will need a flatbed truck please! Can you help? The theme is "Play It Like a Local." Feel free to dress up like a Miner, a Mountain, or a Mineral. We will pass out candy and postcards. Interested? Just reply to this email.

Field Trips. We just scheduled five field trips. Essential details, how to obtain travel info, and to register, please visit our field trip website. Attendance is limited. Destinations include:

- La Plata Canyon Royalite - June 7
- Sowbelly Agate/Amethyst - June 28
- Silverton Rhodonite - July 19
- Piedra River Fluorescent Minerals - Aug 15
- Del Norte Thundereggs - Oct 3

Equipment Sales. The Club will sell surplus equipment, including a slab saw, two large rock tumblers, a homemade double flat lap, sphere maker, a vibratory lap and more. These items will be displayed at the Gem Show for bidding by the general public. Any item that does not sell will be moved to a Member's Only silent auction to be held after the Show, with new, lower starting bids. Watch for more details, possibly a picnic, too, to be posted later this summer.

I love this Club. Not only for what I can create within these wall, but for what I have learned, what is still to be learned, and most of all, the amazing people I meet.

For the love of minerals and metal,
Cindy Pugsley

Class Announcements
So many classes coming up! View the Club's CALENDAR (at www.durangorocks.org/events) for details. Here are upcoming listings.

Fri May 15 to Mon May 18 - **Sterling & Moon Poison Ring,** with Shoshana Kaliski
Wed May 20 - **Ear Cuff Class**, with Jama Crawford
Sat/Sun May 30-31 - **Cloisonne Project**, with Jama Crawford

Sat/Sun June 6-7 - **Statement Ring Class** with Carlos Manon
Sat June 13 - **Prong Set Pendant**, with Jama Crawford
Sun June 14 - **Cabochon Cutting and Polishing**, with Joel Arnold
Fri June 19 to Mon June 22 - **Sterling & Moon Poison Ring**, with Shoshana Kaliski
Sat June 27 - **Steel Soldered Earrings**, with Jama Crawford
Sun June 28 - **Mixed Metal Rivet Class**, with Jama Crawford
Scroll through the calendar to see more classes after these dates.

A New Gem Club Home

The Building Committee has launched an effort to replace the 115 year old shop we have called home for the past eight decades. Built around 1910 and moved to Brookside Park on skids in the 1930s, the Club began to occupy this building in 1947. We purchased it for $500 in 1951 - that was a bargain even then! The City owns the land under the building and we have enjoyed continuous leasing of park property for the last 80 years.

Ten years ago, in light of conversations with the City about the building's future, the Club began to save money for a new facility. The Club operates modestly and doesn't earn much profit, so this required years of discipline and commitment. The Club has now saved about 1/4 to 1/3 of the total new building cost.

This effort was similar to saving a down-payment for a new home, but differs in that the Club strives to avoid any mortgage debt. Debt can put a volunteer organization at risk. Instead we will need generous donations from people like you who care about our community to reach a local fundraising goal. And we will need support from public and private grant funding agencies who sponsor science, art and community renewal and development.

We are working with City officials about footprints at this time, and will share more information as it unfolds. In the meantime, please visit the New Building Webpage to track our progress, download a brochure, and consider donor options with naming opportunities.

Please also tell us what features matter to you in a new building by taking the New Building Survey. Whether or not you are a member of our Club, your input on how our community grows and changes matters. Please weigh in.

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