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November 2025 Newsletter

Message from your President

Writing my first newsletter as Club President fills me with excitement and renewed energy. As I leave behind two terms as Club Treasurer, my head is filled with fresh ideas of how to keep the Club relevant and active in our community. The most important task is to develop a clear direction for the Club's future.

Our shop in Brookside Park, now 125 years old, is approaching the end of its useful life. Volunteers worked very hard over the last decade to earn and save money to meet the Club's future housing needs. The current lease expires in May 2027, just a year and a half from now. A solid facility plan must be in place ahead of that deadline. If you have experience in construction, project management, community development or fundraising, please join the very important Building Committee. Send an email to info@durangorocks.org. The ball starts rolling in January.

Another area I am passionate about is to strongly fulfill our mission: *to provide residents of the Four Corners region with opportunities to learn about and explore topics of earth sciences, lapidary and allied arts*. What will this look like? I am committed to more geology lectures, free demos, field trips, classes, social hours and hosting school groups.

I am open to all suggestions and feedback. Please consider joining a committee, some of which are listed below. Expect to start work in January. Every committee is important to the Club's success, so please email me with your interests.

New Committees

1. Building and planning.
2. Writing a Gem Show Managers' Manual. Next year is our 72nd Gem Show!
3. Membership drive in February, with planning starting in January.
4. Field trip coordinator.
5. Social media. Work with current members to up our presence.

Stewards

We always need new Stewards to lead Open Shop or to serve as substitutes. Stewarding is a great way to get to know and learn from other Club members. Stewards open the door, greet members, answer questions, observe users, and close up. It's fun work and usually there is time to spend on your own project! Please email to schedule your training.

Upcoming Calendar Items. For more details, visit www.durangorocks.org/events.

- Nov 21- 22, 5-9 pm and 1-5 pm- **Intro to Silversmithing Statement Ring Class** with Carlos Manon. To register, contact Carlos at 970-779-1548 or los.manon@gmail.com.
- Nov 26 – 27 Holiday Closure: no open shop. Happy Thanksgiving!
- No social hour this month.
- Dec 7, 10 am - 2 pm – **Cutting and Polishing Cabochons** with Joel Arnold. To register, contact Joel at 970-247-5140 or joelrecuerdo55@gmail.com
- Dec 8 – 6pm to 8 pm – **Holiday Party** (see details below)
- Dec 12-13, 5-9 pm and 1-5 pm - **Intro to Silversmithing Statement Ring Class** with Carlos Manon. To register, contact Carlos at 970-779-1548 or los.manon@gmail.com.
- Dec 15, 4-6:30 pm, **Santa's Workshop** with Charlotte Lenssen. In this short class you will make simple copper and silver earrings. To register, contact Charlotte at 970-799-8950 or charlotte_lenssen@yahoo.com.
- Dec 24 & 25 – Holiday Closure: no open shop.
- Dec 31 – Stay tuned! A possible **Rock & Roll Party** for those igneous people who don't want to be sedimentary and want to do something metamorphic! Thoughts?
- Dec 31 & Jan 1 – Holiday Closure: no open shop.

A huge shout out to **Shoshana Kaliski** for offering instruction in basic soldering and advanced topics! She is planning more classes soon, so keep an eye on the calendar!

And another big shout out to **Cyrus Niccore** whose steadfast work ethic and knowledge of mechanics have kept our shop equipment in good working order! Thank you, Cyrus!

Holiday party!

December 8, from 6pm-8pm

Potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange. Bring a covered dish and one wrapped gift per person. Things get pretty heated when a gift can only be stolen 3 times and then is dead. It is crazy what a “hot item” is. Last year an outdoor thermometer was just a popular as a massive pile of dino bone slabs and earrings. In my opinion, this is the most fun event of the year!

Interesting items

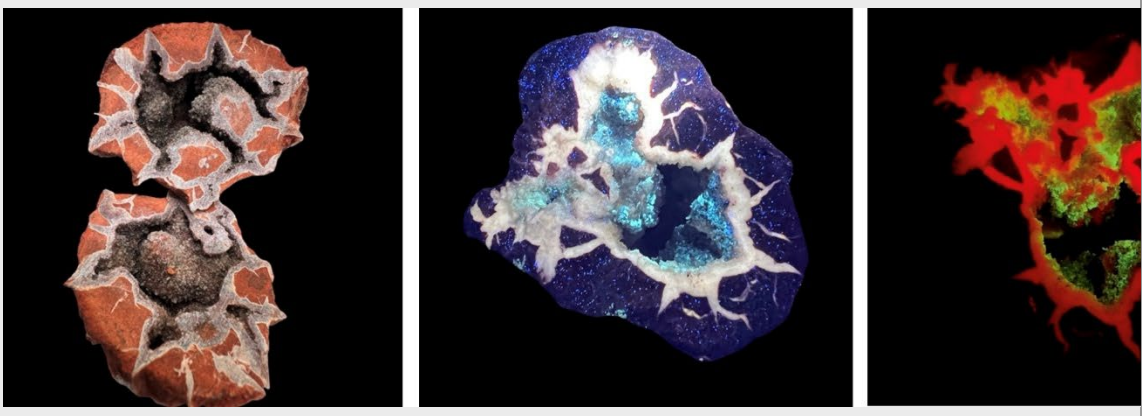
Creede Fieldtrip. Some highlights from my last field trip on September 12. It was an overnight trip with a rainy forecast. Participants were asked if they wanted to cancel due to the weather, and it was a unanimous NO! So off to Creede we went. Four of us camped and two stayed in a hotel. We all got together for dinner and breakfast (in the pouring rain). With no cell service, there was a snafu contacting those joining us Saturday morning. The rain was expected to make driving difficult up to Last Chance Mine, so we departed ahead of the showers, earlier than scheduled. The road was fine but the white-out blizzard was especially exciting! At the mine, the clouds parted and the sun came out. Member Carlos Mañon, employed by the mine, helped out by throwing nicer specimens down the tailings to us. Beautiful pieces of

sowbelly agate and amethyst were purchased at $2 a pound. They are a dream to work with! This has become an annual trip, come rain or shine, so join us next year!

Great Feeds. I highly recommend subscribing to **Saltshack** on Facebook. It is an educational natural science and e-commerce teaching feed. There are daily reels covering science, mineralogy and geology. He is as witty as he is informative.

Fluorescent Rocks. Members Chip Wallace and Jama Crawford will team up to create a fun fluorescent rock display at next year's Gem Show. Jama has been hunting fluorescent rocks in Colorado, New Mexico and presently in Oklahoma, and says you will be DAZZLED by the many types of luminescence possible in otherwise humble stones. She will also lead an overnight fluorescent rock hunt next season.

Pictured below: an Oklahoma septarian nodule under visible light (left), 365 nm UV light (center) and its phosphorescence (right), when all lights are off. The bright red flash is called brief intense phosphorescence (BIP) and is common in calcites with a magnesium activator. The greenish glow in the cavity is prolonged phosphorescence, lasting about 8 seconds after the light is off, in aragonite activated by uranium.



I love this Club as much today as I did on the day I discovered a place in Durango that would accept, teach and welcome this woman who often says, "stop, I see a rock!" Thank you to every single one of you who has an interest in or love for

minerals
or metals.

Cindy Pugsley, President

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