

ROCKDUST NEWSLETTER

Sun City

March 2025



Member Meeting March 13th

After social / refreshment time, announcements, speaker will be Susan Emberley of 4 Peaks Mining Company in Scottsdale. Susan is a new speaker to the club and will take us on a video tour of the mine.

Let's show her a warm Rockhound welcome!

March 20th Field Trip - Jasper

Meet at SE Corner Bell, 7:30am. No High Clearance or Four-Wheel Drive required. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch, snacks, folding chair, collecting bucket and \$10 for gas to driver if carpooling.

Thank you,
Cheryl Etten

March Calendar

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 10am Board Meeting Museum	7 Sundial Museum Open House 9-2pm Members Only Sale, Sundial Plaza 3-5pm	8 Rock Sale Sundial Plaza 8-1pm Museum Open House 9-2pm
9	10	11	12	13 Member Meeting-Fairway AZ Rooms Social 6pm Business 6:30 Speaker 7:00 4 Peaks Mining	14 Monitor Training 9-10am Museum	15
16	17	18	19 ASU Trip Meteorite Museum and "The Vault" (Must sign up)	20 Field Trip SE Corner Bell 7:30am	21 Monitor Training 1-2pm Museum	22
23	24	25	26	27 Show n Tell at TBD, noon-1:00pm	28	29

April Calendar

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 10:00am Board Meeting Museum	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Member Meeting Potluck Fairway AZ Rms 5:30pm 7pm Speaker Colin Morley	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Field Trip SE Corner Bell 7:30am	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Show n Tell at TBD, noon-1:00pm	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Carol Bankert, Connie Johnson, Mardy and Dick, Lynn Wheeler

Mardy and Dick Zimmerman's Generous Donation to the Sun City Rockhound Club

A Treasure Trove of Geological Marvels

In an extraordinary act of generosity, Mardy and Dick Zimmerman have made a significant contribution to the Sun City Rockhound Club. Their donation, consisting of a vast collection of rocks, minerals and fossils is a remarkable gift. Mardy and Dick Zimmerman are well-known figures in the world of rock and mineral collecting. Their passion for geology began decades ago and blossomed into a lifelong pursuit. The Zimmermans have traveled extensively around the Southwest, amassing a diverse and comprehensive collection of specimens. Their dedication to the study and appreciation of geological wonders is evident in the meticulous care and effort they put into building their collection. Mardy and Dick also spent their time working their Midnight Owl Mine and educating fellow rockhounds and children. They also started the famous egg carton samplers which were present at The Flagg Gem and Mineral show for decades and are well known throughout the rockhound community. The Sun City Rockhounds recently took over this project from the Zimmermans and I personally can attest to the joy it still brings to children and adults.

The donation includes an impressive array of rocks and minerals, each with its unique story and significance. Among the highlights are:

- Fossils giving us a glimpse into the prehistoric world.
- Gemstones: A variety of gemstones, including amethyst and peridot.
- Mineral Specimens: The donation includes numerous mineral specimens, highlighting the diversity of mineral forms and compositions here in the Southwest.
- Large specimens of Halite from the Salton Sea.
- An exquisite collection of fluorescing rocks which were Mardy's passion.

If you would like to learn more about the Rockhound club stop by our Sun City Rockhound Mineral Museum Located at 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Sun City, AZ. Open daily from 10-1. Closed on Thursday and Sunday. Admission is free. Email scrockmuseum@gmail.com or Facebook: Sun City Rockhounds. The club is open to all RCSC card holders.

Rockhounds trip to ASU, Wednesday 19th

March Rockhounds trip to ASU. After using the light rail to avoid traffic and parking problems, a group of Rockhounds will be lucky enough to be hosted by a couple of ASU professors into their workspace to see what they do. First of all, Professor Laurence Garvie will take us into his vault and talk to us about his most valued meteorite specimens in the Center for Meteorite Studies. You will probably be able to touch some of the collection.

Once finished with Professor Garvie, we will move up to have some lunch. The 'engrained restaurant' is to be recommended. It is run by the university and staffed by the students. No tipping and very good food.

After lunch we will do a head count just outside the food area and walk just a couple of hundred yards and be hosted by Professor Steve Ruff (the Mars Guy) at the Moeur Building.

After that, (and using the restrooms) we will make our way back to the Light Rail station,

Hopefully a grand day out for one and all. Colin

NOTE: there are still spots for 10 Rockhounds to go on this fabulous tour to view a world- class meteorite collection. If interested, please email scrockmuseum@gmail.com or signup in museum.

February 20th Field Trip - Aguila (Mushroom Rhyolite)



March Dates to Remember

Open House at the Mineral Museum

Friday & Saturday March 7 & 8

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Invite your friends & Family

Club Members Only Sale (Cheryl Alvord, Lead)

Friday, March 7th 3:00-5:00 PM (Bring or wear Club badge)

Cash or Check Strongly recommended

Annual Rock Sale

Saturday March 8th

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

(Open to the public)

We could use volunteers to help set up for the Rock Sale Friday March 7th 1:30-2:30

Physical Strength an Asset!

Many of you signed up to monitor or help at the Rock Sale. You will get an email beforehand reminding you of your “shift” (Thank You!!)

If you have questions about any of the events above, please email the club at scrockmuseum@gmail.com for more details.

Membership Notes

Dues and Branded clothing (Tee shirts & Hats require cash/check payment)

Payments for Tee Shirts needs to be made at the time the order is placed

Thanks Priscilla & Kathy M.

Museum Updates March 2025

Museum Refresher and New Monitor Training dates for March

- **Friday** March 14th, 9-10am
- **Friday** March 21st, 1-2pm

For existing members - it's only 1 hour long and will help refresh your memory on existing processes and learn about what's new.

For new members – learn the basics about volunteering in the museum.

Hope to see you at one of the sessions!

Sign up at the monthly meeting, in the museum, email scrockmuseum@gmail.com or just show up!

New retail items

The museum retail has been replenished!

New items include EGG CARTON activity for guests to fill with nicer quality mineral specimens. Please come check it out.

REMINDER - Member's discount changed to 10% January 1st, 2025.

To continue to bring both our members and guests the best price possible the board has decided to reduce the discount. Keep in mind that member discounts are for members only.

RENOVATION of museum

The RCSC is planning on painting the museum over the summer months. This is a perfect time to rearrange, redecorate and reimagine the museum. We need a few volunteers for the following:

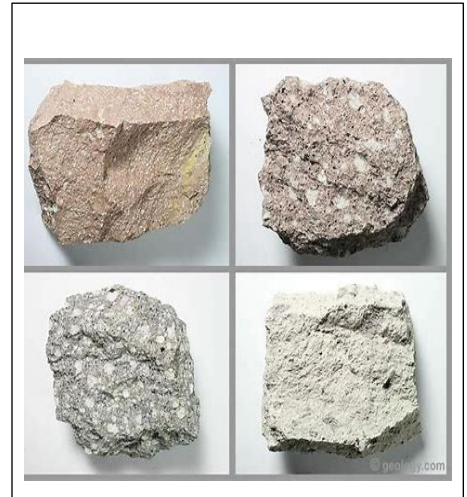
- Packing up specimens in cabinets that need to be moved for painting. Then returning to cabinets after the painting is completed.
- Consulting and help with facilitating new cabinets in the museum.
- Redecorating the walls and blank spaces with existing and new artwork.
- Helping to coordinate the grand reopening October 1st in conjunction with our 35th anniversary of the museum opening.

If you would like to help over the summer months, please sign up at the meeting or museum or email the museum at scrockmuseum@gmail.com.

Mineral Spotlight: Rhyolite (by Deb Carlone)

What is Rhyolite ?

Rhyolite is an extrusive (*magma exited the earth & cooled quickly*) **igneous rock** with a very high silica (*felsic*) content. It is usually pinkish or gray in color with mineral grains so small that they are difficult to observe without a hand lens. **Rhyolite** is usually made up of minerals such as quartz, plagioclase (*feldspar*), and sanidine, with minor amounts of hornblende, and biotite (*mica*). Trapped gasses in the initial lava can produce 'vugs' (*small cavities or pockets*) in the rock which can contain other crystals.



The word '**rhyolite**' comes from the Greek word '*rhyaz*' which means a stream of lava and the suffix '*lite*' means a rock. **Rhyolite** comes in many different forms. One of the most well-known is **pumice**, which is light weight, useful as an exfoliator because it is full of tiny holes & rough surface. **Pumice** is also unique because it floats in water!

What is Mushroom Rhyolite?

Sometimes called "*mushroom jasper*" **mushroom rhyolite** gets its name from the repeating gray egg pattern that sometimes looks like a mass of growing mushrooms. It forms from lava flows with high silica content which contain trapped gas pockets. As it solidifies those empty pockets can fill with an opaque, fine grained secondary mineral solution (forming silica rich jasper). The distinctive bubbles in **mushroom rhyolite** are known as thunder eggs and they fill in with overlapping layers that start and stop many times as they form and build up over time. In some areas a reddish halo can surround the outside the gray bubbles. In the field this form of rhyolite has a speckled or spotted appearance and can have an appearance similar to mushrooms when the stone is cut.



Mushroom Rhyolite can be found in many areas that have had volcanic activity in the past, but it is mainly sourced northwest of Phoenix in Arizona. It can be used for crushed stone and cut to make jewelry. Want to go on a video rockhounding trip to find **mushroom rhyolite** at a collecting site in AZ? Here is a link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcAwxpmOKwc&t=3s>





2025 Rockhound Club Officers & Board Members

President Lynn Applebaum, lynn.applebaum@sympatico.ca

Vice President Cheryl Alvord, chetti2@aol.com

Secretary Linda Schonewald, tomandlinda1@gmail.com

Treasurer Maryse Mercier, marysemm@mac.com

Connie Johnson, connradical@gmail.com

Tom Schonewald, tomandlinda1@gmail.com

Club Contact Information

Museum Telephone 623-428-6442 Club Email scrockmuseum@gmail.com

Best way to reach club members: use the Rockhounds general email, scrockmuseum@gmail.com; your email will be routed to the appropriate person.

YouTube Channels

Mars Guy Channel– Our favorite ASU professor Steve Ruff (our February 2024 guest speaker) has over 142 videos now on Mars he has created and has 34 thousand followers.

Elley Knows Rocks Channel – Our one-time guest speaker Elley Ringo has over 500 videos on rocks, minerals, Arizona mines and her adventures in Greenland.

Sidetrack Adventures- Not rock hound related, but, the host of the channel, Steve, takes you weekly on the highways and byways of southern California and Arizona. Many could be potential day trips from Sun City.

Rock Hounding Channels

- AZ Rockhound Expeditions
- Currently Rock hounding
- Native Arizona Adventures (local group also on Facebook, sponsors monthly field trips)
- Rockhounding the West

New Business Cards



FACEBOOK & PINTEREST

As a reminder, our club has both Facebook & Pinterest Pages. Both can be found by searching Sun City Rock Hounds in these applications.

Facebook: includes pictures of rock and mineral specimens that are posted weekly along with occasional news stories on topics club members may find of interest. Meeting and field trip information will also be posted.

Pinterest: includes hundreds of pictures of rock and mineral specimens in and the Nazca Lines in Peru, home collections and even a few pictures of club activities.

