

ROCKDUST NEWSLETTER

Sun City



October 2024

October Guest Speaker

Bob Holmes – local meteorite collector and proficient identifier

Bob has been studying, hunting and collecting meteorites since 1998. He has searched and collected meteorites throughout the southwest to include Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and California.

Bob has had displays at the Tucson Rock and Gem Show Main Event, the Lunar and Planetary Lab in Tucson and at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum in Phoenix.

The Sun City Mineral Museum is honored to display part of Bob's impressive collection now in our museum. If you haven't seen it yet, what's keeping you?

Topic: How to identify meteorites and where to find them.

Bob will join us at the museum on Thursday October 24th for our Show N Tell to discuss and answer questions on meteorites.

Note: Be sure to bring to either event any specimen you think may be a meteorite for Bob to review.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

1- Mineral museum reopens 5 days/week

3-Zoom board meeting, 10 am, AZ time

10-Member meeting, Fairway, AZ Rooms 1&2

6-6:30 pm- social/refreshments

6:30-7 pm- business/announcements

7:00-8 pm- Speaker, Bob Holmes, meteorites

October 17 - Field trip to Seven Springs area north of Cave Creek to collect jade and onyx. Meet at Bell Rec at 7:30 am, SE corner. We will depart at 8 am for an approximately 2-hour ride. Passenger cars can make it to the main parking area, then 4 x 4 higher clearances from there.

24- Show & Tell, museum, noon-1pm, Bob Holmes to share about Meteorites, highlighting new museum display

27 or 28- Departure for OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP to Elko, Nevada mine

Meet mine owner, Phil Smith, on Oct 29th, am
(See separate articles)

31- FUN TRIP, local adventure day trip with fellow club members (details in progress)
(5th Thursday event)

NOVEMBER

7- Board meeting, 10 am, Mineral museum

14- **ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Fairway Rec Center, AZ Rooms 1-2, 6:30 pm
Speaker, Peter Huegel, SALT

21- FIELD TRIP, collecting

27- Set up for annual Arts and Crafts Festival, Sundial

29 & 30- Arts & Crafts Festival, volunteers needed for museum and Mezzanine tables

From The Club President (Cheryl Alvord)

Elections are coming up in November... Yes, Rockhounds are voting for Board Members

At the club's annual meeting on Thursday November 14th at 6:30 pm in the Fairway Rec Center Arizona Rooms 1 & 2, Rockhounds will elect club members for our governing Board of Directors for 2025.

Rather than having individuals running against each other, we have a "slate" of candidates willing to serve on the Board. There are four "Officers" positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. And we currently have 2 "at large" Board members. (They have full voice and vote but less defined responsibilities.)

GOOD NEWS: All but one position on the Board is already filled with nominees. Five out of six available slots are taken care of.

COMPELLING NEWS: WE NEED a Club President. In order to remain an active sanctioned club, this position must be filled. Please consider whether you and or another club member would volunteer to step into this important role.

FACTORS TO PONDER:

1. This position can be shared by one, two or even three people. "On the books", one of these would have his/her name filed with the RCSC Clubs Office. Duties for the President could be divided according to interests/abilities.
2. You do not have to be a year-round Sun City Resident to be president. Most of the program year is October through April. And, accommodations can be made for distant participation. (ZOOM, Conference call) at monthly board meetings.
3. Most of the Board members have experience in leadership and at least one year on the Rockhound Board.
4. The RCSC Club Office offers full training and support to club officers, especially Presidents.
5. You do not have to be an experienced, comfortable speaker or writer. Others will assist with these duties.
6. Most importantly: The other Board Members will "be with you every step of the way" with as much information and support as the new President wants or needs.

In the spring, Eileen Moberg, past membership secretary, volunteered to form a Nominating Committee to help recruit new Board members for the club. She is the contact person if you would like to learn more about the Presidency. (Please see her brief article below.) In addition, you may speak with any current Board members, including myself, Cheryl Alvord.

Here is the current slate of 2025 candidates for the Sun City Rockhounds Club Board:

President: Open

Vice President: Cheryl Alvord (current president)

Secretary: Linda Schonewald (new)

Treasurer: Maryse Mercier (returning)

At Large Members: Connie Johnson (returning) Tom Schonewald (returning)

Please join me in giving this vacancy much thought and prayer. Cheryl Alvord, Club President

ROCKHOUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPCOMING ELECTION (Eileen Moberg)

The Rockhounds nominating committee is still seeking that person or persons to run for Rockhound **club president for 2025** in the November elections. This would be the perfect time to volunteer since we have a full slate of officers and two Members at large. Please step up and volunteer to keep your club running smoothly. Call me, Eileen Moberg, at 425-501-4682.

To serve, you would need to be able to attend monthly board meetings except during the summer and you must be available to perform the duties of your position as President.

OVERNIGHT TRIP TO NEVADA IN LATE OCTOBER

This rare opportunity is made possible by a generous invitation by collector/mine owner Phil Smith of Goodyear. The trip is being coordinated by Cheryl Etten and Connie Johnson. (with able assistance from Carol Bankert George, Club VP) **SPACE IS LIMITED to 20 Club Members Only.** Since it is a long trip, (see Cheryl Etten's write up for details) some will want to split the travel into two days. The greater Las Vegas area is about half way. Participating members will meet the mine owner on the morning of Thursday October 29, 10:00 am in ELKO, NEVADA. **There is a sign-up sheet in the museum and you can sign up at the October monthly meeting.**

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Each year many clubs in Sun City sponsor a large, well-attended festival to the public. It is always held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. The Sun City Rockhounds have tables with displays and items (rocks, minerals, fossils, etc) for sale. In addition, the Mineral Museum is open all day both days. This event is the primary fund raiser for our club. The old adage "many hands make light work" and "it takes a village..." both apply to the Festival. Typically 35-40 Rockhounds volunteer in some way. Sign-up lists to help out will

soon appear. We will need assistance with Monitoring in the Museum, Preparation, Set-up, Staffing the retail tables on the mezzanine, and Clean-up.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- New Club Logo and Branded items (including Tee-Shirts) are available for sale
- Lights in the museum display cases have been replaced. They are bright LEDS
- During the summer, Carol Bankert George coordinated four new displays in the museum. Stop into the Sundial museum to check things out and sign up to monitor if you can.

Welcome to the club, new Sun City Rockhounds:

David Curtis, Michael Fritz, Nancy Gill, Michelle Hansen, Michael Lange, Cindy and Doug Miers, Linda Moley, Lori O'Neill, Gerald and Linda Russo, Bill and Eileen Singleton, Dawn Thompson, and Wilma West.

Hope to meet you all at the Oct 10th member meeting!

-
- ***October 1, 2025 will be the 35th anniversary of the Mineral Museum opening.*** An Open House Celebration is planned
 - The Annual Rock Sale will be held on Saturday March 8, 2025 in the Sundial Mezzanine (Plaza) with an open house sponsored by the Center's clubs
 - Our storage items will be moved again this fall to a new space conveniently located at the Sundial Rec Center. YEAH!

2024 Rockhound Trip to Elko Nevada (Cheryl Etten)

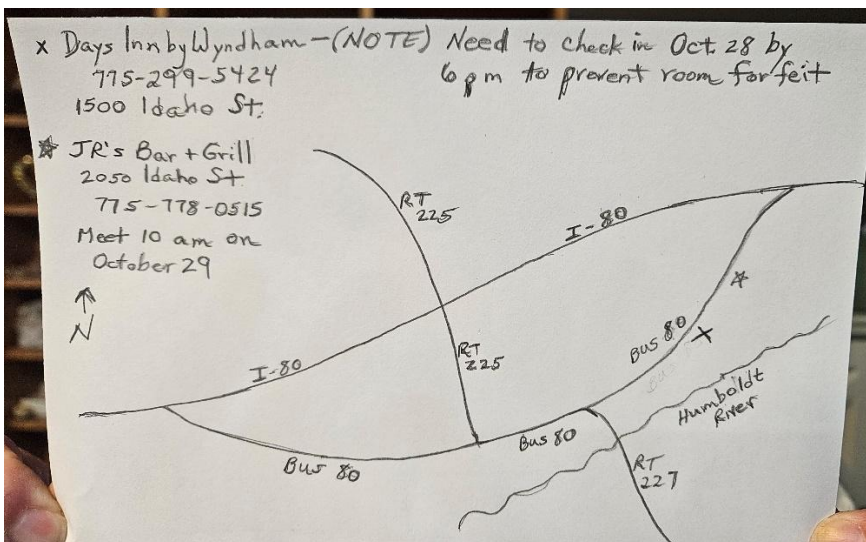
Phil Smith has invited 20 Rockhound Members to his mine claim in Elko, Nevada, elevation approximately 5,200 ft., **on October 29-31** to search for Opalite, with an offer for night fluorescent searching. Please note that this invitation is for members only. **Also, members must have good mobility to navigate the uneven terrain at the claim.** We will meet Phil, 10am October 29th, at JR's Bar and Grill at 2050 Idaho St., about .7 miles from the hotel. Phil will take us to his claim and provide direction on what to do.

The distance from Sun City to Elko is approximately 700 miles with a travel time of 11 – 12 hours. There is a reservation made for 8 rooms (2 queen beds each) at the Days Inn by

Wyndham at 1500 Idaho St. (also known as Business 80). This reservation was put in Cheryl Etten's name (sorry she is not paying) to allow for each member to call the hotel, IN ADVANCE, and have the reservation moved over to their name. To ensure the room is not cancelled, you will need to arrive BEFORE 6 pm to check in.

There is a sign-up sheet in the museum and you can sign up at the October monthly meeting.

The hotel number is 775-299-5424. There are 8 different confirmation numbers. As you sign up for the trip a confirmation number will be placed next to your name so you can call and have the reservation name changed to your name with your credit card attached.



Museum Updates

The Mineral Museum will resume our 5 day a week schedule starting October 4th. Hours open are 10 am to 1 pm daily, closed Thursday and Sunday.

Urgent: Looking for museum monitors! October hours are:

- Open 10 am to 1 pm daily
- Closed Sunday and Thursday

Please call or text Gale at 734-731-0065

OR Email

scrockmuseum@gmail.com

Chetti2@aol.com

Museum Refresher and New Monitor Training dates for October

- **Saturday** October 19st 1 to 2 pm
- **Friday** October 25th 9 to 10 am

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

Projects

In September the RCSC worked with the club on a review and upgrade to museum lighting. New LED light fixtures were installed in all specimen display cabinets. These new light fixtures are not only energy efficient, but much brighter for a better view of the specimens on all display shelves. Next steps include upgrading the overhead fluorescent light fixtures.

Dave Balzer, the museum's fluorescent room's curator, recently worked with Bill Garner from Way Too Cool fluorescents. Bill and Dave do a periodic review of our UV lights to ensure they are in tip top shape. Bill donated several specimens for display in our fluorescent room and Dave purchased a few new specimens. These new minerals will be great additions to our museum. Be on the lookout for them in the next month.

Update on Moore Graphics

Now in with our newly designed logo:

- Business cards
- Lanyards
- T-Shirts (in the museum for sale and will be at monthly meeting)
- Name tags
- Museum signs

Moore Graphics has proven to be a great business partner. They do work for many of the clubs in Sun City. If you are in another club looking for a graphics partner, consider Moore Graphics in Youngtown. Discounts may be available for new clubs working with them.

Six new additions to our fluorescent room collection! (Dave Balzer)

Next time you're in the museum fluorescent room you might want to check out the new additions to our fabulous specimen collection. Three of them were donated by Bill Gardner and the other three were purchased from local dealer, George Polman.

From Bill Gardner:

1. Wernerite (aluminum-calcium-sodium-silicate) from Ontario, Canada. Look for it in the long wave section near our other Wernerite specimens.
2. Agrellite ($\text{NaCa}_2 \text{Si}_4 \text{O}_{10} \text{F}$) (triclinic inosilicate) from Ontario, Canada. This a NEW mineral to our collection. Look for it under the rotating light.
3. Chalcedony/Calcite "Watermelon" (SiO_2) and (CaCO_3). From Sioux County, Nebraska. We already have a specimen of this combination. Look for the new one under the rotating light.

Purchased from George Polman:

4. Hyalite Opal (amorphous form of silica (SiO_2)). From Mexico. Look for this under shortwave. This form of opal is NEW to the museum.
5. Calcite, Chondrodite, Diopside. (CaCO_3), ($\text{Mg,Fe}_5(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{F,OH,O})_2$). (a little complicated), ($\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$) From Ontario, Canada. The Chondrodite is NEW to the museum.

Look for two new specimens under shortwave.

6. Phlogopite, Diopside, Fluorapatite, Calcite. ($\text{KMgAlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{F,OH})_2$). ($\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$). From Afghanistan Phlogopite and Fluorapatite are both NEW to our museum. Look for this specimen under shortwave.

We are always looking for ways to make our fluorescent room second to none! Come by and see!

Museum Committee

We expanded the retail committee last season to include the management of the museum.

If you would like to join the museum committee here is some of what we would like to do this season:

- Planning 35th year anniversary for the museum which opened on 10-1-1990.
- New displays



- Hazardous minerals
- Fluorescent minerals
- Rockhound Club
- Arizona 'room'
- Rotating mineral displays
- Labeling mineral specimens as needed
- Reviewing items for silent auctions for club members
- Reviewing donations
- Soliciting museum volunteers
- Training museum volunteers
- Assisting with monthly Show and Tell

The 'to do' list has a variety of tasks; we can use anyone who likes to:

- Event plan
- Décor arranging
- Sorting through rocks
- Training new monitors

If anything piques your interest, contact the museum via email at scrockmuseum@gmail.com or use the sign in sheet at the meeting and in the museum.



Club member Roz Shafer with the 50 states display with the new sign
In progress, Arizona rocks and minerals display in the old 50 states display



In progress, new hazardous mineral display



October guest speaker Bob Holmes with the completed meteorite display

(Article by Deb Carlone)

Spotlight on Geodes and Thunder Eggs

While hiking in the deserts or dry stream beds around Arizona you might run across some roughly spherical rocks varying in size from a golf ball to softball and is not as heavy as you would expect. These might be ‘**geodes**’ contain hollow cavities lined with crystals. The name geode comes from the Greek word ‘Geoides, which means “earthlike.”



you
and
comes



There are two main environments in which a **geode** can form:

- (1) In volcanic rock they start out as trapped gas bubbles, such as vesicles, or holes, in basaltic lava. OR
- (2) In rounded cavities (ie. from a dissolved fossil) in sedimentary formations.



The hardened cavity gradually fills with minerals dissolved in ground water, which then crystallize over thousands of years to create a crystal-filled interior of a geode. Essentially, a **geode** is a rock with a “pocket” that gets filled with crystals from mineral-rich water seeping in over long periods of time.

Most **geodes** contain clear quartz crystals, while others have purple amethyst crystals, agate, chalcedony, jasper banding, or crystals such as calcite, dolomite, celestite, etc. The only way to discover the unique beauty inside of a **geode** is to crack it open with a rock hammer or cut it open with a rock saw. If you want to learn more check out this YouTube : **All About Geodes and How They Are Formed.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBDklsqp15A>

Geodes are commonly found in regions where geological conditions that favor their formation, such as deserts, volcanic ash beds, and limestone areas. Some locations for hunting geodes in Arizona include: Brody Hills area near Payson, Geode Hill right outside Camp Verde (Copper Canyon trail), sites near Gleeson in the Sugar loaf Mountains, Hauser Geode Beds, Anthem and Lake Pleasant area.

A **thunder egg** is also a spherical formation resembling a filled geode and is created within volcanic ash layers. They are typically found in silica-rich volcanic rocks, such as rhyolite.

Thunder eggs form when trapped steam and gasses expand into bubbles as volcanic lava cools. Silica and feldspar minerals crystallize around the bubbles, creating spherulites. Over time the gas pressure can force the spherulite apart, creating a hallow cavity which then fills with minerals like calcedony, agate or quartz.



In Arizona you can find thunder eggs in a few places, including: Cave Creek, Hauser Geode Beds, and Potato Patch (wilderness campground).

Link below for a great article of Geodes

[The 26 Different Types Of Geodes \(With Photos\) \(rockchasing.com\)](http://rockchasing.com)

Club Contact Information

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

Club Contacts		
President	Cheryl Alvord	207-797-0619
Vice President	Carol Bankert George	623-688-6364
Board Secretary	Deb Carlone	607-423-1390
Treasurer	Maryse Mercier	732-673-5567
Board Member	Connie Johnson	425-879-0874
Board Member	Tom Schonewald	425-308-4310
Membership	Tom & Linda Schonewald	425-308-4310
Monitor Coordinators	Gale Willett	734-731-0065

Refreshments	Marty Martin	847-406-6489
	Beth Mead	307-262-6715
	Karin Schardt	602-402-0506
	Lynn Applebaum	
Rockdust Editor	Dave Noll	253-905-6274
Fluorescent Room	Dave Balzer	626-375-8086
Retail Committee	Phil Applebaum	
	Roz Shafer	
	Krysten Sarkissian (intern)	
Museum Advisory Committee	Phil & Lynn Applebaum	Eliz & Joe Chan
	Cliff DeVig	Carol Bankert George
	Mary Brown Martilik	Roz Shafer
	Karin Schardt	Linda & Tom
	Priscilla Davis	Schonewald

Arizona Rock and Mineral Shows - October



**50th ANNUAL HUACHUCA MINERAL, GEM,
JEWELRY and FOSSIL SHOW
12th AND 13th, OCTOBER 2024
THE MALL AT 2200 EL MERCADO LOOP, SIERRA VISTA, AZ
For Information; Contact Maudie Bailey,
gmbailey@msn.com, 520 249-1541**

West Valley Rock & Mineral Club – Buckeye’s 10th Annual Helzarockin’ Gem & Mineral Show, Oct 11, 12, 13

9am – 5pm Fri-Sat and 9am – 2pm Sunday
Adults \$4, kids under 13 free



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.



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

