The Sierra Pelonagram

February 2012

... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1959 with the objective to sponsor activities and promote interest and education in: mineralogy, lapidary, geology, paleontology and related subjects.

Welcome
New Members
The Board of the SPRC would like to introduce and welcome new members Judd Figatner and Monica Travis.

Birthdays
Happy Birthday and Wishes for a Healthy and Happy Year Ahead!

Barbara Cottage, Feb 1
Brigitte Mazourek, Feb 1
Barbara Caudill, Feb 24

For those of you who are interested in learning basic lapidary (cutting and polishing gemstones) Lapidary Journal - Jewelry Artist Magazine offers a free download of an E-book called "The Complete Lapidary Experience: Hunt, Cut, and Set Gems". This collection of articles takes you on a field trip to collect rough moonstone then through the cutting and polishing phases and finally to setting the stone in a piece of jewelry. Being able to cut or modify a gemstone opens up whole new areas of jewelry making and gives greater depth to the feeling you get when you reply "Yes, I made it myself" Get the free E-book at: http://jewelrymakingdaily.com/Lapidary-Hunt-Cut-Set/?utm_source=megalist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mgl110525e

If you know anyone who is not feeling up to par, has been sick or lost a loved one? On the silver lining side of things, do you know who has achieved a goal, won a personal victory, or just something that deserves recognition? The Sierra Pelona Rock Club has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to those members who are in need or are deserving of it. Notify our Sunshine Chairperson Brigitte Mazourek.

Officers:
President – Ron Lawrence
Vice-President – Bill Webber
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:
Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann
Facebook--Greg Langewisch
Field Trips – Greg Langewisch
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Janelle Williams
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Ron Strathmann
Storage - Vlad Litt
Sunshine - Brigitte Mazourek
Website – Earl Kangas

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club, is a member of the California and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (CFMS/AFMS). The general club meetings (Open to the public) are at 7:30 PM, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at:

The Clubhouse of the Greenbrier
Mobile Estates EAST
21301 Soledad Canyon Rd
Canyon Country, CA 91351

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:
Sierra Pelona Rock Club
P.O. Box 221256
Newhall, Ca. 91322
Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net
Visit the SPRC website http://www.sierrapelona.com/

President's Message

Our first General Meeting-done. Our first field trip of the year-done. We're moving on into 2012 full speed. Even our first and second new members are on the books. I just asked Shep to take on the Program chair so all chair positions are full.

I think I heard Greg M. say we have fifty members and that may not include the two new members. Speaking of membership, a few of you haven't paid dues yet and they are now late as of Tuesday's Business Meeting so let Greg hear from you please.

The field trip was a success in both attendance and collecting. Visiting the Rio Tinto mine is always great and to collect right there in the parking lot for Borites can't be beat. The next field trip will be for soap stone a soft green material that can be carved. It's at a place called, for lack of a better name, Soap Stone Hill. Greg L. has more than the one spot planned with a possible lunch in between.

I've mentioned this before but want to continue talking about it when I can. Some clubs and even the Federation who oversees the clubs use Robert's Rules with their meetings. I'm not interested in that but I think we need to set some procedures for our meetings and stick by them. I asked at the Business Meeting for help in deciding how we should conduct ourselves at meetings and hope for feedback. I attended the Antelope Valley Treasure Hunter club and they do the new business and old business and approving minutes thing and it looked good.

So I'm asking for opinions from the members. Email me with what the other clubs you are members of do and tell me how the meetings are run and if you like it or not. And please if I try something new, have an open mind and let me know what you think after the meeting.

What is a Fossil?

Definition: A fossil is the remains of a living organism or the indications of living organisms that have been preserved in the rock record. The word fossil is from the Latin word fossus which means having been dug up. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks like limestone, dolostone, coal and sandstone. Rarely fossils are found in metamorphic rocks and some extremely rare fossils are found in igneous rocks. Fossilization is the process by which a living organism becomes a fossil. Here are a few of those processes:

1. Mold and Cast. An organism, like a clam, dies and settles into the mud, leaving an impression in the mud in the shape of the shell (the mold). The mud hardens and the shell dissolves away. Later, the impression is filled up with new mud, which then hardens. This new mud has the shape of the original shell, which is called the cast.
2. Petrifaction. Suppose a tree is suddenly buried by sand. Water that is carrying minerals flows through the wood. Microscopic pieces of the wood are washed away and are replaced by a mineral, like agate. This continues until the entire log has been transformed from wood to mineral. This is also called petrification or silicification.
3. Original Material. In rare situations, the original material of an organism can be preserved. Examples include frozen mammoths, insects in amber, and sea shells that are preserved in their original form.
4. Pyritized Fossils. When an organism dies and settles in mud that has a lot of iron but no oxygen, the iron can combine with sulfur from the decaying animal and create the mineral pyrite (also called Fool's Gold) which takes the form of the original shell. Left: A pyritized ammonite.
5. Carbonization. This is typical of plants. When plants die and are buried, they rot away. But when all the conditions are right, instead of rotting away they decompose and leave a film of carbon, usually in coal or shale. This film (a very, very thin layer of carbon) preserves the shape of the plant, often including the leaves and the stems.

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www.diamonddanpublications.net via Morocks

SPRC Business Meeting
Greenhouse Café
February 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Ron Lawrence at 6:40pm. In attendance were Ron L, Greg M, Shep, Bill and Heidi, Akiko, Dianne, DJ and Janelle. A quorum was met.

It is noted that the new board and chairpersons who took their respective places within the club effective January 1 is: Board of Directors: Ron Lawrence-President, Bill Webber-Vice President, Greg Mazourek-Treasurer, Shep Koss-Federation Director and Heidi Webber-Secretary. Chairpersons are: Claim-Mike Serino, Donation Rock Table-Akiko Strathmann, Field Trips-Greg Langewisch, Historian-Frank Humelbaugh, Hospitality-Evelyn Velie, Membership-Janelle Williams, Programs-Shep Koss, Publicity-Ron Strathmann, Storage-Vlad Litt, Sunshine-Brigitte Mazourek, Website-Earl Kangas, Facebook-Greg Langewisch, and Pelonagram-Heidi Webber.

Ron asked that membership please let Brigitte know of any personal member events that the club should send cards or flowers to, such as illness, death, birth, etc.

Shep will present an Opal program at the February General Meeting.

Ron will give Akiko more donations to the donation rock table for club raffles.

The next field trip will be to the Los Osos Area to collect soapstone, fossils near Lake Cachuma, and maybe a trip to the beach. Shep reminded everyone that Santa Barbara beaches actively impose a no collecting law and you will be ticketed. If there is time, those who wish will go into Solvang for lunch. Further details will be emailed to the members by Greg L.

Ron L said he would like to get back to the practice of following Robert's Rules in general, not hard and fast as we aren't that sort of organization. He asked members to read the Rules and give feedback. The 11th Edition is available for sale and also there are a multitude of websites that cover the rules.

Janelle gave Greg M two membership applications and one renewal. Ron questioned why there were two different applications presented. One was a hard copy from the club and the other was obtained from the club website. Shep feels that there shouldn't be an application on the website and Janelle and DJ objected. There was discussion, but no decision was made.

New members voted in are Judd Figatner and Monica Travis. Monica applied on line, and hasn't been to any meetings or field trips. After discussion, the BOD agreed to waive the membership requirements as she lives a distance away, but wants to be part of the club.

Ron asked Heidi to include the actual birth day in the Pelonagram Birthdays section, if known.

Greg M. said he paid for the next 6 months storage fees. He said that all but 12 members from last year have paid their dues. Reminder notices will be emailed to them.

It was noted that there is an obsolete link to our website and we need to try to get rid of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2012
Briarwood Estates Community Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Ron Lawrence. Ron said that for years the club has been becoming somewhat lax in following the bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order and that he wants to start being more in compliance, which include taking minutes and taking roll of attending members.

Ron said that for 4 years Evelyn Velie has been both Hospitality and Sunshine Chair and she is willing to give up the Sunshine position. Brigitte Mazourek said she would assume those duties. Thank you Brigitte.

Evelyn pointed out that the sign-up sheet is available for people to volunteer to bring snacks to the General Meeting. She will contact the person(s) responsible each month ahead of time with a reminder.

Ron said he would like to find someone to either take over or assist Greg Langewisch on the mid-week trips that many members would like to take. If anyone would like to do this, contact either Ron or Greg.

Janelle Williams, new Membership Chair, said that 23 members and 3 guests were in attendance.

Ron Strathmann is the new Publicity Chair.

Greg Langewisch (new Field Trip Chair) announced that the field trip for Saturday, January 21 to the Borax Mine and Museum in Boron will be postponed a week, until Saturday, January 28 because of expected rain and anticipated wind, cold and wet even if it doesn't actually rain in Boron. All other aspects will remain the same and he will follow-up with an email to members.

Greg L said that the planned February field trip will be to Soapstone Hill/Cachuma and Solvang (if time and hunger permit) and the March trip will be to Stoddard Wells for green marble and the Tailgate Show. Again, details will be emailed to members.

Earl Kangas introduced changes to 3 of the bylaws he wishes membership to vote on next month. He will email membership within 10 days of the next General Meeting with details so members can be ready to cast their vote at the meeting. Discussion will be held before the vote.

1. Add the Pelonagram as the official publication of the club.
2. Eliminate the Standing Rules of the Bylaws
3. Combine portions of Articles 8 and 9 to allow the president to form new committees and chairpersons to said committees as needed for the term of the president.

Janelle said that she has been talking to Supervisor Antonovich's office regarding our need for a shop. She is looking for any county-owned empty building locally that we can use. Nancy Hilliard's kind offer notwithstanding, she only has 100-amp hour service, which is inadequate for our needs.

Bill Webber announced that he has a box of rocks from Al Brown containing all sorts of good stuff and what should he do with it. A future silent auction was suggested.

Shep wanted to remind everyone that dues are due now and considered late if not received by the Business Meeting the first Tuesday in February.

Heidi Webber said that she would email these minutes to membership each month so that they can be pre-read, corrected and approved quickly at the General Meeting.

Bruce Velie asked about a Treasurer's Report being presented at the General Meeting, and it was explained that it is available at the Business Meeting and also upon request.

Greg Mazourek brought club hats and shirts for those who wanted to buy any.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:40pm.

The program of demonstrations and some hands-on grinding of cabochons and attaching dop sticks commenced immediately after the meeting. Thanks to Shep Koss, Mike Serino and Ron Lawrence for supplying their personal equipment for these demonstrations.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber, Secretary, SPRC

Nicholas Steno's 374th birthday, January 11

If one day in history had to be picked as the birth of paleontology, it might be the day in 1666 when two fishermen caught a giant shark off the coast of Livorno in Italy. The local duke ordered that this curiosity be sent to Niels Stensen (better known as Steno), a Danish anatomist working at the time in Florence. As Steno dissected the shark, he was struck by how much the shark teeth resembled tongue stones, triangular pieces of rock that had been known since ancient times. Today, most people would instantly wonder whether the tongue stones were giant petrified shark teeth, but in 1666 such a presumption was a tremendous leap. Few could imagine how living matter could be turned to stone, and beyond that, encased in solid rock—especially if the rock were well above sea level and contained remnants of a marine organism. Fossils were instead thought to have fallen from the sky, or to be peculiar geometrical shapes impressed on the rocks themselves.

From living tissue to stone

Steno made the leap and declared that the tongue stones indeed came from the mouths of once-living sharks. He showed how precisely similar the stones and the teeth were. But he still had to account for how they could have turned to stone and become lodged in rock. Naturalists of Steno's day were becoming convinced that matter was composed of different combinations of tiny corpuscles--what today we would call molecules. Steno argued that the corpuscles in the teeth were replaced bit by bit, by corpuscles of minerals. In this gradual process, the teeth didn't lose their overall shape as they turned from tissue to stone.

Steno's Law of Superposition

But how could fossils end up deep inside rocks? Steno studied the cliffs and hills of Italy to find the answer. He proposed that all rocks and minerals were originally fluid. Floating on the surface of the planet long ago, they gradually settled out of the ocean and created horizontal layers, with new layers forming on top of older ones. Molten rock sometimes intruded into the layers, reaching the top and spreading out into a new layer of its own. As the rocks formed, they could trap animal remains, converting them into fossils and preserving them deep within their layers. Those horizontal layers represent a time sequence with the oldest layers on the bottom and the youngest on top, unless later processes disturbed this arrangement. This ordering is now referred to as Steno's Law of Superposition, his most famous contribution to geology. Steno was not the only naturalist of his day to propose that fossils belonged to living creatures. Leonardo da Vinci and Robert Hooke, for example, also took up the same view. But Steno pushed the idea much further. He argued for the first time that fossils were snapshots of life at different moments in Earth's history and that rock layers formed slowly over time. It was these two facts that served as the pillars of paleontology and geology in future centuries. And fossils ultimately became some of the key evidence for how life evolved on Earth over the past four billion years. (*Ed. Note:* Steno's insights had great ramifications beyond geology. He noted that the deepest rocks (which often are metamorphic or igneous, the very strong rocks that geologists call "competent") are at the lowest levels, and the softer (generally sedimentary, less competent) rocks are at the top. Others soon noticed that the correlation of decreasing competence with higher position applied to other disciplines as well, the most notable of which is the Peter Principle.)

Reference: The Rockhound Official publication of the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. via Morocks

The Trivia Vug

by R. J. Harris from Gem cutters News

Sources: Discovery, NatGeo, and Launch Radio

Twenty-four-karat gold is not pure gold; there is a small amount of copper in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands.

Leaded crystal glass is not crystal. Glass consists of atoms and molecules in a jumble, not in the well patterned order that defines a crystal.

Zircon crystals from the Jack Hills of Western Australia are thought to be the oldest pieces of our planet's surface at 4.4 billion years old.

The streets of New York City are not paved with gold, but the schist bedrock contains opal, beryl, chrysoberyl, gar-net and three types of tourmaline.

Meet Greg Langewisch

I wanted to write to you and introduce myself to those who may not know me. My name is Greg Langewisch and I'm the new SPRC Field Trip Chairperson for 2012. For your reference, I am attaching a photo to this email so that you'll recognize me at the meetings or field trips. I've been a member of the SPRC for about 6 months joining right after the last summer break. I've enjoyed my time here and wanted to help out where I could. So, I was offered and accepted the Field Trip chair for 2012.

We'll work to have an eclectic variety of field trips so as many members and guests will participate as possible. For our less mobile members I'll schedule several park and collect trips where you'll literally be able to gather material within yards of your parked vehicle. There will be a few trips that cater to our rugged members who enjoy hiking a distance over rougher terrains to obtain materials which haven't been picked over due to easy access. Two or three of the trips will be overnighters where we can camp out under the stars, roast hot dogs, marshmallows and share ghost stories. There may even be an extended weekend road trip to more distant locals to grab some materials not available locally.

All that said, I know I'm new to the club and probably not as familiar with all of the numerous collecting sites as many of you. So, please feel free to help me out by providing your opinions and suggestions for future events.

New to the club this year, we will have a fun competition where members who attended the previous months' field trip will be able to submit a rock they collected to be voted on by the general membership as the "Rock of the Month" (or whatever we officially call it). Details are still TBA but I'd imagine that the winner could get a picture of themselves and their winning rock on the website and Facebook page. Should be a lot of fun!

I like to schedule our trips in quarters. So, with that in mind here is an overview of the trips planned for 1st Quarter 2012:

Saturday-February 25th, 2012: Roadside Fossils / Lake Cachuma / Soapstone Hill / Solvang

We'll head out towards Lake Cachuma, in the beautiful San Padres National Forest stopping along the way to pick up some fossils of former sea life. In the Lake Cachuma area, we'll find brightly colored jasper and other materials.

Then it's off to Soapstone Hill to collect….well…soapstone. After that, those of us with a little left in the tank can travel onwards to visit the picturesque town of Solvang for a bit of touring and a bite to eat. On the way back there are several nice beaches to stop at and visit (though I understand that collecting any materials from the beaches could potentially get you in trouble).

Again, this should be essentially a park and collect trip with little strenuous exercise involved. Parking in the San Padres National Forest requires an adventure pass. So we will need to do a bit of organizing as to how many of these day passes we will have to acquire prior to the field trip.

Saturday-March 24th, 2012: Stoddard Wells Marble / Roadside Show

In March, there is a roadside show where many vendors go to Stoddard Wells to sell their rocks and stuff. We'll check out the show and join their field trip to hike collect the Stoddard Wells marble. While I understand the terrain here is not too rugged, there will be hiking involved in obtaining the marble. That said, the rock show is large and could be reason enough to make this trip.

Hopefully we'll get many of you to attend one or more of these field trips. I strive to organize a little something for everyone this year and hope you enjoy the trips.

See you at the next meeting.

Regards,
Greg Langewisch
2012 SPRC Field Trip Chairperson
2012 SPRC Facebook Chairperson

January Field Trip

Well, Saturday (1/28/2012) we had our field trip to the Borax Mine/Claim/Weenie Roast/Castle Butte area. I don't think we could have asked for better weather. At the time we all met up at Mammoth & Soledad the wind was howling, making me wonder how good of an idea it was to have a camp fire out in the desert. However, by the time we hit Rosamond, the wind was gone and it was calm for the rest of the day.

We arrived at the Borax Visitor Center around 9:45 and took a look around for awhile. They had many displays showcasing the uses for Borax and the other minerals taken from the mine. It's amazing how many household products contain Borax.

When we finished checking out the museum and watching the video we headed out to the tailings pile. For those of you who may not know, they bring out piles of tailings (materials) from the mine and dump them outside the visitor center for folks to dig through. The piles seemed small and weathered, as if they had been there for months having rain and wind weather them down. In fact, we were told that the last time material was brought out was back in October. Nevertheless, once we started digging we found more stuff than we could shake a stick at. Besides Borax we found crystalline materials and other rocks that were rumored to be arsenic. But they didn't taste like arsenic when I licked them… ;)

After putzing around the tailings

Photo by Greg Langewisch

for a half hour or so we headed out to the claim to dig up some travertine and roast some hot dogs. As soon as we arrived, I commenced building a fire to cook some dogs on. Being the great fire starter that I am, it only took about half an hour to get it going and ended up taking much more fluid than I had anticipated. Let's just say that you wouldn't want me to have the flint and steel on your Survivor tribe.

In any case, I finally got it going and called everyone over to cook some hotdogs over the coals. Besides hotdogs, we had chips, a couple kinds of cookies (one batch was made by Sarita I didn't know who brought the others), some Rice Krispy treats provided by DJ and finally s'mores for the kids (and semi kids) to cook and eat. Everyone had their fill of the food and many folks, me included pulled some travertine from the claim. After an hour or two we decided it was time to head out into the desert.

We travelled a few miles from the claim to stop in one of the dry lake beds and look for materials. The stuff there was small and plentiful but for the most part only good for tumbling. So after not too long we headed out deeper into the desert to find better stuff. We made a couple of stops before finally finding a spot with some nice agate, chalcedony and jasper. We walked around there for about an hour collecting materials. I collected a bunch of agate that I thought might look good cabbed up.

All in all I think everyone had a good time. There was a nice social vibe with the cook out where most everyone wandered about conversing amongst each other. There was opportunity to collect a variety of materials and there were s'mores. What more could you ask for?

I want to thank everyone who came out. It was a great turnout. Check out the Facebook page and club website for pics from the trip. I hope you all can make it to our next field trip out to the Lake Cachuma/Solvang area to look for fossils, brightly colored jasper and soap stone. That should be a fun one as well.

Don't forget about the "Best Rock" contest at the next general meeting. Bring one or two of the coolest rocks you collected on the last field trip and enter them into the contest. Winner will get a picture of themselves and their prize rock on Facebook and maybe the club website.

See you at the meeting!

Regards,
Greg Langewisch
SPRC field Trip Chair

What is Soapstone

With an upcoming field trip to Soapstone Hill, I thought a little history would be in order:

Soapstone (also known as steatite or soaprock) is a metamorphic rock, a talc-schist. It is largely composed of the mineral talc and is thus rich in magnesium. It is produced by dynamothermal metamorphism and metasomatism, which occurs in the areas where tectonic plates are subducted, changing rocks by heat and pressure, with influx of fluids, but without melting. It has been a medium for carving for thousands of years.

Petrologically, soapstone is composed dominantly of talc, with varying amounts of chlorite and amphiboles (typically tremolite, anthophyllite, and magnesiocummingtonite), and trace to minor FeCr-oxides. It may be schistose or massive. Soapstone is formed by the metamorphism of ultramafic protoliths (*e.g.* dunite or serpentinite) and the metasomatism of siliceous dolostones.

Pyrophyllite, a mineral very similar to talc is sometimes called soapstone in the generic sense since its physical characteristics and industrial uses are similar, and because it is also commonly used as a carving material. However this mineral typically does not have such a soapy feel as that from which soapstone derives its name.

Physical characteristics and uses

Steatite is relatively soft (because of the high talc content, talc being one on Mohs hardness scale), and may feel soapy when touched, hence the name. Soapstone is used for inlaid designs, sculpture, coasters, and kitchen countertops and sinks. The Inuit often use soapstone for traditional carvings. Some Native American tribes and bands make bowls, cooking slabs, and other objects from soapstone; historically, this was particularly common during the Late Archaic archaeological period. Vikings hewed soapstone directly from the stone face, shaped it into cooking pots, and sold these at home and abroad.

Soapstone is sometimes used for fireplace surrounds and woodstoves, because it can absorb and evenly distribute heat while being easy to manufacture. It is also used for counter tops. A weathered or aged appearance will occur naturally over time as the patina is enhanced. Applying mineral oil simply darkens the appearance of the stone; it does not protect it in any way.

Tepe Yahya, an ancient trading city in southeastern Iran, was a center for the production and distribution of soapstone in the 5th–3rd millennia BC. It was also used in Minoan Crete. At the Palace of Knossos, archaeological recovery has included a magnificent libation table made of steatite. The Yoruba of West Nigeria utilized soapstone for several statues most notably at Esie where archaeologists have uncovered hundreds of male and female statues, about half of life size. The Yoruba of Ife also produced a miniature soapstone obelisk with metal studs called superstitiously "the staff of Oranmiyan"

Soapstone has been used in India for centuries as a medium for carving. Mining to meet world-wide demand for soapstone is threatening the habitat of India's tigers. The Hoysala Empire temples were made from soapstone.

Soapstone is used by welders and fabricators as a marker because, due to its resistance to heat, it remains visible when heat is applied. It has also been used for many years by seamstresses, carpenters, and other craftsmen as a marking tool because its marks are visible and not permanent. For such purposes, it is often sold in 6-inch long square or round sticks.

Soapstone can be used to create molds for casting objects from soft metals, such as pewter or silver. The soft stone is easily carved and is not degraded by heating. The slick surface of soapstone allows the finished object to be easily removed.

Some Native Americans use soapstone for smoking pipes; numerous examples have been found among artifacts of different cultures and are still in use today. Its lack of heat conduction allows for prolonged smoking without the pipe's heating up uncomfortably.

Locally quarried soapstone was used for grave markers in 19th century northeast Georgia around Dahlonega and Cleveland, as simple field stone and "slot and tab" tombs.

Soapstone is also a basic stone used to carve Chinese seals.

The term steatite is sometimes used for soapstone. It is often used as an insulator or housing for electrical components, due to its durability and electrical characteristics and because it can be pressed into complex shapes before firing. Steatite undergoes transformations when heated to temperatures of 1000–1200 °C into enstatite and cristobalite; in the Mohs scale, this corresponds to an increase in hardness from 1 to 5.5–6.5.

Soapstone continued

Other names

- Combarbalite stone, exclusively mined in Combarbalá, Chile, is known for its many colors. While they are not visible during mining, they appear after refining.
- Palewa and gorara stones are types of Indian soapstone.
- A variety of other regional and marketing names for soapstone are used.

Reference: Wikipedia

A block of talc

An Egyptian carved and glazed steatite scarab amulet

The outer layers of the Christ the Redeemer sculpture are made of soapstone. Rio de Janeiro

Soapstone slot & tab tomb in Dahlonega, Georgia, USA.

The carvings at the entrance of Chennakesava temple, Belur. Photo taken by Calvinkrishy

CFMS Calendar

February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem
Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007
Email: info@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 3 - 4: ARCADIA, CA
Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
LA County Arboretum
301 Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.Moroks.com

March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Rob Sankovich, (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: www.vgms.org

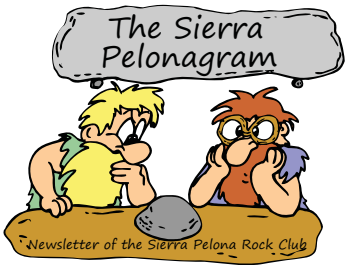
March 9 - 11: VICTORVILLE, CA (Stoddard Well)
Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry (Stoddard Well)
Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15
Phone: (760) 243-2330
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Website: www.vvgmc.org

March 10 - 11: PASADENA, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Masonic Hall
3130 Huntington Drive
San Marino, CA 91108
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239
Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

March 10 - 11: SALINAS, CA (Spreckels)
Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA
5th & Llano Streets
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Robert L. Braun, (831) 771-2089

March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society
Turlock Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway
Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Terry & Bud McMillin, (209) 524-3494
Email: bud.mcmillin.b7yj@statefarm.com
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 16 - 18: SAN BERNADINO, CA
Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball Park
6707 Little League Drive
9am to Dusk daily
Contact: Steve Williams, (909) 389- 8680; (909) 381- 0089 cell
Email: ironelk@ymail.com
Website: www.obmsrocks.yolasite.com



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