

The Sierra Pelonaagram



April 2010

... 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.

New Members

The membership of the Sierra Pelona Rock Club would like to welcome new members Diana and Peter Bellas, Roger Gibson and Diane Henry.

Birthdays:

Sarita Hyde April 9, Tom Kinney April 15, Shep Koss April 14, Greg Mazourek April 12, Suzie Rizzo April 4 and Ron Strathmann April 11.



Announcements:

Upcoming Programs

For the April program at the General Meeting, we will have a Show and Tell. Bring your favorite rock or mineral, especially one with a good story behind it. See you there.

The May program will feature Evelyn Velie telling us all we want to know about pearls. For those who don't know, she is a graduate of the Gem Institute of America and therefore is quite knowledgeable. Bring your pearls too. I know I have a string or two that I can't decide if they are real or not...(Bill is sweating THIS one...!)

Field Trips for April

On May 22 Ron and Bonnie plan a trip to the new claim. This is tentative, so watch your email.

Tourmaline Mine Trip with Shep and a weekday trip to Acton to check out an old mine that a friend of Earl's knows about. TBD via email.

End of Year Picnic

The last event before everyone heads out to their various summer indulgences will be a pot luck picnic on June 26 at Meadows Park. There will also be a White Elephant Sale, so dig out your old, unused goodies. Evelyn will have a Pot Luck sign-up list at the next two General Meetings.

Officers:

President – Ron Lawrence
Vice-President – George Lawrence
Secretaries: Minutes-Colleen Clough
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Bulletin Editor – Heidi Webber
Claim - Ralph Hyde
Donation Rock Table - Al Brown
Field Trips – Shep Koss
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Karen Kubota
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathman
Programs – Mike Serino
Publicity – Diane Southwell
Storage - Mike Moreno
Sunshine - Sarita Hyde
Web page – Debbie Merideth

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* designed by Earl Kangas
<http://www.sierrapelona.com/>



President's Message

Well, we are fast coming on to summer. We have several events planned before it gets too hot and everyone is gone for their various summer activities. We have our final get-together at our annual picnic at Meadows Park in Valencia the end of June. It will be a fun-filled day with games, a White Elephant Sale, plenty of food and lots of good company. It will be pot luck, so you have plenty of time to think of something great to prepare.

Our new claim, Diablo Onyx, is official! Thanks to Diane Southwell for grinding away at the red tape to get this claim filed. She could probably write a book on the aggravations I am sure she experienced in making it ours. Thanks also go to Ron Lawrence for helping her initiate the claim and also finding and staking it out.

Our April general meeting program will be a Show and Tell, so bring stuff you want to show and tell about. Evelyn Velie is also working on a presentation on pearls for May. We have a few good presentations in the works, but please, if you have something that you think would be a good fit for meeting nights, let us know. It can be a challenge to get a great program

for membership enjoyment every month.

In closing, our club continues to grow. Welcome to Diana and Peter Bellas, Diane Henry and Roger Gibson.
Bill Webber
President, SPRC



The Lancaster Gem and Mineral Show

We had a great weekend at the Lancaster Gem and Mineral Show on April 10/11. Business was slow and steady and we made a decent profit. Many thanks to those who came to help: Ron and Akiko Strathmann, Ron and George Lawrence, Al Brown and Mike Moreno, Diane Southwell, Greg and Bridgette Mazourek, Earl Kangas, and Bill and Heidi Webber. (I think that is all, my apologies if I missed anyone).

We also want to thank Karen Kubota who also helped out when her side of the booth wasn't busy, and to especially thank her for sharing her space with us.

ALABASTER CARVING - YOU CAN DO IT

Excerpted, and edited from an October, 1979 article by Art Laymon, Sierra Pelona Rock Club, & Gem & Minerals Magazine

This had to be one of the most comprehensive member involvement projects, and some of our long-time members say it was a lot of fun too. At that time, there was only one member who had experience in rock carving, so the club devised a contest to give its members a field trip and some carving experience. A field trip was arranged to a private collecting area, for alabaster, near Santa Barbara, and members collected alabaster in shades of pink, white, dark brown, and orange. Alabaster was chosen because of its softness - 1 1/2 on the Mohs scale. Alabaster can be carved with a pocket knife, file, hacksaw blade, or any sharp metal. Each member was allowed one or two carvings, and they were given 4 months to complete their entry in the contest.

Members used a variety of tools for their carvings, including wood chisels, wood rasps, hacksaws, knives, pen knives, X-acto knives, nail files, dental picks, and wire brushes (to name a few). It was found that carving the alabaster on a bed of sand made their efforts more efficient. Sandpaper and silicon carbide cloth were the most popular for finishing the carvings. One of the best methods was to adhere sanding material to a piece of wood with waterproof glue. Most popular grits were 220, 400, and 600, and plenty of water is needed to wash away debris and retain details of the carving. After the fine sanding, many type of polishing techniques were used; the most popular and efficient was tin oxide mixed with a small amount of water to form a paste applied with a soft cloth. Oils, wax, Glazecote, and clear lacquer were also used.

After four months, 23 beautiful carvings were submitted for judging. Entries included elephants, butterflies, coyotes, owls, bears, a standing lady, snuff bottle, club insignia, a bust of George Washington, swan, dog, and others. The winners of the contest are shown below:



3rd Place: Ed Garlinger: Profiles of this African elephant were drawn on a 6x6x5 piece of alabaster. Initial shaping was done with a coarse wood saw and a wood rasp for rounding. Fine details were done with small files and finesandpaper. Several coats of lacquer were applied for sealing and polishing.



2nd Place: Joe Harris: A picture in a book served as the model for this rhinoceros - no template was used. Carving was done with a hacksaw blade, wood rasp, and a pocket knife. Ideas from the TV program Wide World of Animals proved helpful.



1st Place: Francis Camino: This carving of pink alabaster was over one foot tall. Rough carving was done with a wood chisel and hammer in a bed of sand. Grooves were cut with a wood rasp. A special tool on a drill press, and a 3-sided file was used to hollow out the inside and to cut the eyes, nose and mouth. A separate piece of alabaster was used for the lid. A Scotch Brite scouring pad and water were used for the smooth finish. Paste floor wax was used as a sealer and polish.

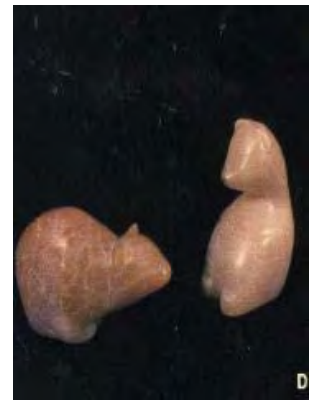
Alabaster Carving continued



**Snuff Bottle
by Art Laymon**



**SPRC Emblem & Sitting Elephant
by Phil Hoskins**



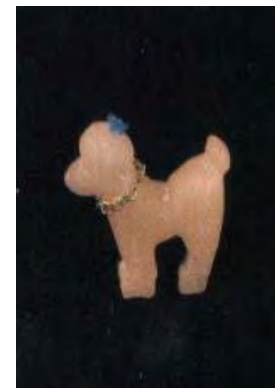
**Contemporary Bears
by Ron Conder**



**George Washington bust
by Francis Camino**



**Standing Lady
by Elaine Kuarford**



**Poodle
by Sue O'Hora**

Some notes on the carvings shown above: Material for the snuff bottle was cut into a block 2" H x 1 1/2"W x 3/4" thick. It was center drilled with a 1/2" metal bit. Material was removed with a small sharp pen knife and a rough file. Smoothing was done with sandpaper. Polishing was done with tin oxide and sprayed with lacquer. The top was created in a similar manner.

The contemporary bears were roughed out with a hacksaw and coarse coping saw. Smoothing was done with sandpaper. Polishing was done with coats of Futura floor wax.

The poodle was created from material that was fracture free with a slight inclusion for accent. The design was drawn with a pencil and cut out with a trim saw, hacksaw, paring knife and X-acto knife. Smoothing was done with sandpaper and diamond fingernail file; final smoothing was done with worn sandpaper. A small amount of hand cream created the luster. Note the added accents of jewelry. Information on the creation of the other carvings was not made available

All of these carvings were the first attempted by people who said they had no talent. Don't be afraid to try such a project - **YOU CAN DO IT!** Just get yourself a piece of alabaster and get started. You will be amazed at what you can do. All of the carvings were displayed at the annual show of the Sierra Pelona Rock Club which was held at the cafeteria of the William S. Hart High School in Newhall. They were also shown at the San Fernando Valley Gem Fair the following February at Devonshire Downs, in Northridge. Demonstrations of alabaster carving were presented at both events.

Today, in 2010, the one member of the Sierra Pelona Rock Club who knew how to carve alabaster, before the contest, in 1979, remains with our club - that distinguished member is **Mike Merino**. Mike is one of our most knowledgeable rock hounds and lapidarian. Bring back any memories, Mike?

Thanks for putting this great article onto the website and helping me get it into the Pelonagram, Earl. Mike, thanks for bringing us a little bit of our history to share. One of our future presentation wish-list persons is a rock carver and I wonder if this is something we would like to repeat in the club 31 years later? Anyone up to the challenge? Heidi

**Latest on Desert Protection Act of 2010
Affecting the Route 66 corridor from Barstow to Needles.**

The latest revision shows OHV allowed on certain roads along certain corridors. This revision also allows rock collecting and recreation within limitations. If unchanged, it keeps this area open for us. More on this as it becomes available. Previously, the upcoming designation as National Monument status would have forbidden all this. It is also suggested, by me, that as a club we join ALAA, the AFMS group lobbying congress on our behalf. This would give us, as a group, a voice in Washington, D.C.

Just a reminder that this trip is this month...Saturday April 24 at the Oceanview and Sunday April 25 at the Himalaya. Reservations are mandatory at the Oceanview. Make reservations directly with them. www.digforgems.com Put (SPRC) next to your name on the form. Please let me know after you've done this and how many in your party plus age of children if any. The Himalaya Mine needs no reservations but still has limited spots as does the Oceanview. Click on to each mine's website for details, instructions, maps and places to stay. The more from our group the lower the costs. www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com

Shep Koss
Sierra Pelona Rock Club

April Birthstone

Diamond



Diamonds have always exercised a special magnetism on the human race, the female of the species in particular. Their story, which I would describe as both romantic and social, is known the world over. It is hardly surprising then that the diamond is the most popular gemstone of all.

Its chemical composition is simple: pure crystallized carbon referable to the cubic order of crystallography. It is formed in volcanic craters and dispersed by volcanic eruption or flooding.

There are two main varieties of diamond: misshapen crystals which have certain industrial applications and gem diamonds used in jewelry making.

Diamonds for industrial applications are colored, opaque or impure. They are widely employed for drilling tools and precision instruments. Gem diamonds are pure and colorless, though the rare colored transparent specimens are highly valued by the experts.

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called *color-treated diamonds*. When purchasing a fancy-color diamond, the shopper should ask if any enhancements or treatments were used to improve its color and/or clarity.

Exerpts from: mineralzone and American Gem Society's websites

SIERRA PELONA ROCKHOUND CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING
GREENHOUSE RESTAURANT
4/2/2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no corrections.

In attendance were Bill & Heidi Webber, Ron and Akiko Strathmann, Nancy Hilliard, Mike Serino, Al Brown, Ron Lawrence, Bonnie Forstner, Diane Southwell, Mike Marino, Earl Kangas and Evelyn Velie

New members voted in were Diana and Pete Bellas, Diane Henry and Roger Gibson.

Suggestions for General Meeting topics were given. Evelyn has a presentation of identifying true pearls from copies for May; our club picnic on June 26 will be our General meeting for June. The picnic will be a potluck. The club will provide drinks and plates, utensils, and napkins. Contact Evelyn with your dish information. Start thinking about what you will bring for the White Elephant auction! It will be at Meadows Park, same location as last year.

Diana reported that the new claim has been recorded. The fee was \$149.00 total, with \$10.00 maintenance fee for each claim every year after. There is a seminar coming up on April 24, 2010 with CFMS on how to get claims started. For more information on that contact Diane.

Bonnie reported that the new color chosen for the T-shirts is teal, with small decals. We will now be offering ladies tank top shirts along with regular t-shirts in men and women's styles.

Mike states the storage is status quo.

Earl states the local radio station 1220 Senior Hour could put on the Sierra Pelona Rock. All we need is a volunteer speaker?

Check your calendars for Shep's Tourmaline trip.

Ron would like to have Planning Meetings in the summer while the club is in hiatus in place of the Business meetings.

There is a possible weekday field trip on May 15 to explore a local mine, and a weekend field trip on May 1 with Bonnie and Ron.

Bill is still exploring economical rates for oil for the club saw.

There will be a large open house at the Nature Center on May 8 and the club has been invited to set up a booth. Come out and bring the family for a really great time!

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm

April 16, 17, 18, 2010, San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road
Hours: Fri 9-5, Sat & Sun 10-5
Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422
Email: info@scvngms.org
Website: www.scvngms.org

April 24-25, 2010, Newbury Park, CA
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Show
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reno Rd. & borchard Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 10-4:30
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

April 24-25, 2010, Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Church St. & Center St. (corner)
Hours: 10-5 daily
Dean Welder (408) 353-2675
Website: www.scmgs.org

April 30 - May 1-2, 2010, Bishop, CA
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Tri-County Fairgrounds (Robinson Bldg.)
Corner of Sierra St. & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri. 6-9, Sat. 9:40-4, Sun. 10-3
Francee Gaham (760) 876-4319
Email: franceem@quet.com

May 1-2 2010, Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society Brookhurst Community Center 2271 West Crescent Ave. Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4:30
Marty Swiderski Email: Martin.Swiderski@jacobs.com
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 8-9 2010, Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society
Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall
1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Ann Johnson (775) 544-4937
Email: ann.johnson@gmail.com
Website: renorockhounds.com

May 14, 15, & 16 2010, Anderson, CA
Superior-Cal Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta Fairgrounds
1890 Briggs St.
Hours: Fri. 10-5; Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10-4
Bob Davis (530) 824-6214
Email: mcdavis@hughes.net

May 15-16 2010, Yucaipa, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center
34900 Oak Glen Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475
Email: bjm2285@aol.com
Website: www.yvgms.org

June 4-6 2010, Woodland Hills, CA
Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society
Pierce College
6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills
Hours: 9 5
Gary Levitt (818) 993-3802
Email: Show@Rockatomics.org
Website: Rockatomics.org

June 5-6 2010, Glendora, CA
Glendora Gems
Goddard Middle School
859 East Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 18-20 2010, Whittier, CA
AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society
So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10-5 daily
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
Email: odwarthen@verizon.net
Website: www.nocgms.com

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