

The Sierra Pelonaagram



December 2009

... 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.

CFMS SHOWS
January-February

January 16-17 2010, Exeter, CA
Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exter Memorial Bldg.
420 N Kaweah (Hwy 65), Exter
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Pepper Okada (559) 733-5842
Don Vieira (55(0 733-7739
Webpage: tulegem.org

February 12-21, 2010, Indio, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date
Festival
Gem amp;& Mineral Building Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 26-27 2010, Northridge, CA
Del Air Rockhounds Club
United Methodist Church
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. -9:30 p.m.- Sat. 10-5
Julie Marin (818) 886-7190
Website: <http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com>



December Birthdays:

Al Brown
Nancy Hilliard
Jon Meredith

Happy Birthday!

Another Message from Ron:

Home from the Business Meeting and I want to catch everyone up on a few of the things we covered.

First, everyone is invited to Business Meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Green House Cafe on Bouquet. We eat and discuss club business. This is where we bring up new ideas and make many decisions for the club.

There will be no General Meeting on the third Tuesday as the party replaces that meeting.

Dues are due.

A new and complete roster is on the way and many other things were covered that will be on the web site and in the Pelonagram

RON LAWRENCE
PRESIDENT
SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB

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/>

Message from the President

My term as President of the Sierra Pelona Rock Club is almost complete, these two years seems to have flown by. Although, when I look at how the club has changed, I wonder how we were able to accomplish so much. I do want to thank you all for the opportunity being President has given me. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed working with you great people.

Please, continue to give the new officers the same support and effort that you have been giving.

I know in almost every President's message I mention the clubs growth. It seems like we are welcoming new members every month and a great group of people they are. On a quick count I come up with fifty-four members in the club with three more to join soon.

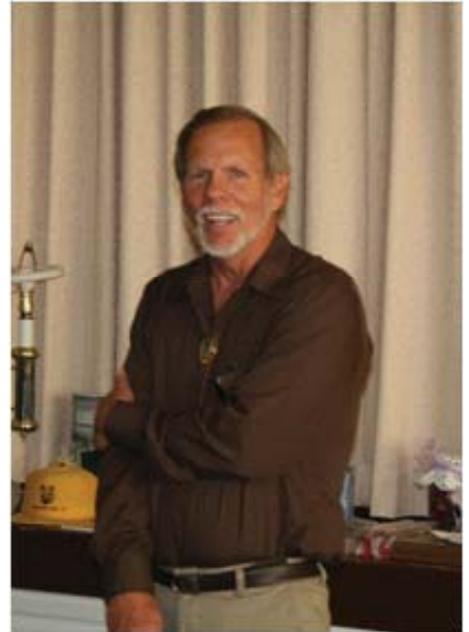
As the club moves on changes are inevitable. The club of ten or twelve meeting in the smaller room or "card room" of the club house with maybe five or six going on a field trip is in the past. I remember telling the quilting group that they could use the bigger room and we would meet in the other room, but the time would come when we would need the big room back. Well, we not only have the room back but fill it every month.

Now let me make it clear, I take little credit for this. As president, it is my job to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and to introduce the guest speaker for the night. I will, as I have in the past, give credit to those who have worked hard to put on good field trips and programs and to publicize those events on the web, in the Pelonagram and in the mass media. I also know that most of these great people will continue to move the club forward in the new year.

Don't be afraid to step up and work to build a great club. My first term as President, years ago, I was new to the club and knew very little, but I knew I would learn and I'm still learning. Members like Mike Moreno and Frank H. and some that have gone on to higher collecting areas like Bill Huber and Angie Donnelly took me under their wings and said things like "that looks like agate but it's not" or "you have a very special leaverite there". Well, I have a back yard of leaverites and proud of it because I have enjoyed every field trip I've been on. When I go on a field trip, finding material may be the idea but the best part is to spend time with friends and enjoy the outdoors. Oh, I like to bring home something to slab or tumble and I will continue to do that.

I plan to be in the Sierra Pelona Rock Club for many years and maybe even be President again someday so I will do my part to help the officers and chair people build a strong club that we can be proud of.

Thank You All
RON LAWRENCE
PRESIDENT



'Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009'

by John Martin AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair:

Of interest to Rockhounds is the 'Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009', HR699, which was introduced to the House of Representatives on January 27, 2009. This Bill will modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes. It will impose limitations on patents (Claims), require a royalty to be paid for the removal of minerals, add or increase hardrock mining maintenance fees, effect of payments for use and occupancy of claims. All these actions may have negative effects on Rock Clubs or Societies which currently hold or may be trying to file claims on BLM, Forest or other public lands.

What can we as rockhounds do? Use the internet, email, fax, or the U.S.

Postal Service to contact both your state and federal elected officials and let them know what your concerns are regarding the closure and withdrawing of public lands from public usage. Support and join organizations like the Blue Ribbon Coalition < www.sharetrails.org >, American Land Rights Association < www.landrights.org >, American Lands Access Association (A.L.A.A.) < www.amlands.org >. These groups are fighting to keep our Public Lands Open to all Public Users. Please support and use the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and CFMS, they have information and resources that can help all aspects of rockhounding."

This is from the latest AFMS newsletter and affects not only this state but every state. Behind this are the numerous environmental groups and legislators on their side, primarily California legislators and east coast legislators. This bill cannot be allowed to continue with impunity.

Excerpt from the AFMS Newsletter; Dec-Jan:

Shep Koss
SPRC Field Trip Chair
CFMS Field Trip South Co-Chair
SPRC CFMS Director

A Trip with Shep—Ant Hill



The day started out chilly on Nov 22 for the trip to Ant Hill for marine fossils; yet, over 60 adults and kids made it including club members, guests, school kids and scouts.

After gathering at the meet spot for orientation, waiver sign-ins and looking at samples we got in our vehicles to drive another mile to the parking area and then hiked up the hill to the trenches holding the world's richest Miocene marine fossil bed.

Spreading out over two hillsides everyone started digging and sifting after receiving instruction in the clues to look for (coloration of the wall and embedded bone fragments). Extinct shark teeth were found almost immediately.

Altogether I saw people find teeth from various Mako sharks, Tiger sharks, rays, seals, sea lions and porpoise. They also found countless bone pieces from whales and seals. One young girl even found a complete porpoise rib still attached to a nice vertebra. Some even found bony fish vertebra.

Everyone was excited with their finds and some finds were worthy of museums.

The largest teeth I saw that were found were a couple of nice 2" long teeth from Big-tooth Mako.

All in all it was a good trip to an area that will soon be closed off to housing construction.

Until next time,

Shep Koss

SPRC Field Trip Chair



Big-tooth Mako

CFMS Field Trip to Cady Mtns North

by Adam Dean and Shep Koss

CFMS Field Trip South Co-Chairs - 2008, 2009 This trip is open to all CFMS members and guests that agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rockhounding. A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arriving at the campsite.

Be aware that this is a remote and undeveloped area. Collect responsibly.

WHEN: December 12-13, 2009.

WHERE: North Cady Mtns near Afton Canyon area, off Basin Road exit by I-15 about 45 miles east of Barstow.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Basin Road exit off I-15 about 45 miles east of Barstow and turn right (south) for 1.3 miles to fork in road. Take the left road for 3.8 miles to the railroad tracks and cross the tracks to the campsite. Use caution.

MATERIAL TO COLLECT: Adam Dean's favorite spots for agate, jasper, calcite, green and purple fluorite, sagenite, opalite and much more.

SPONSOR: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS).

LEADERS: Adam Dean and Shep Koss

OVERNIGHTER This trip is an overnigher with dry camping near the railroad side tracks off Basin Road.

The campsite can accommodate RVs and tents. This is dry camping with no facilities whatsoever. Bring water, firewood, clothing for any type of weather hot or cold wet or dry, food and a full tank of gas. High clearance and 4WD recommended for all sites. 2WD ok to the camping area if driven with care as many spots may have windblown sand. Roads to some sites may have deep sand. Potluck dinner Saturday night - bring a contribution.

TREAT THE DESERT WITH RESPECT: Please help protect our deserts, tread lightly, and pack-out what you packed-in!

All those attending the collecting trips will be required to fill out a Liability Waiver form.

For further information, please contact:

Adam Dean: (909) 489-4899 or e-mail him: theagatehunter@verizon.net or Shep Koss: (661) 248-0411 (land line) or e-mail: freudonetto@yahoo.com You should contact us if you're interested in participating, The weather can change and without knowing if you're going or not we won't be able to give you updates or notify you if the field trip gets cancelled.

Olivine



Olivine is usually named for its typically olive-green color (thought to be a result of traces of nickel), though it may alter to a reddish color from the oxidation of iron. It has a conchoidal fracture and is rather brittle. The hardness of olivine is 6.5–7, its relative density is 3.27–3.37, and it has a vitreous luster. It is transparent to translucent.

Transparent olivine is sometimes used as a gemstone called peridot, the French word for olivine. It is also called chrysolite, from the Greek words for gold and stone. Some of the finest gem-quality olivine has been obtained from a body of mantle rocks on Zabargad island in the Red Sea.

Olivine/peridot occurs in both mafic and ultramafic igneous rocks and as a primary mineral in certain metamorphic rocks. Mg-rich olivine crystallizes from magma that is rich in magnesium and low in silica. That magma crystallizes to mafic rocks such as gabbro and basalt. Ultramafic rocks such as peridotite, and dunite can be residues left after extraction of magmas, and typically they are more enriched in olivine after extraction of partial melts. Olivine and high pressure structural variants constitute over 50% of the Earth's upper mantle, and olivine is one of the Earth's most common minerals by volume. The metamorphism of impure dolomite or other sedimentary rocks with high magnesium

and low silica content also produces Mg-rich olivine, or forsterite.

Fe-rich olivine is relatively much less common, but it occurs in igneous rocks in small amounts in rare granites and rhyolites, and extremely Fe-rich olivine can exist stably with quartz and tridymite. In contrast, Mg-rich olivine does not occur stably with silica minerals, as it would react with them to form orthopyroxene ((Mg,Fe)₂Si₂O₆).

Mg-rich olivine is stable to pressures equivalent to a depth of about 410 km within Earth. Because it is thought to be the most abundant mineral in Earth's mantle at shallower depths, the properties of olivine have a dominant influence upon the rheology of that part of Earth and hence upon the solid flow that drives plate tectonics. Experiments have documented that olivine at high pressures (e.g., 12 GPa, the pressure at depths of 360 kilometers or so) can contain at least as much as about 8900 parts per million (weight) of water, and that such water contents drastically reduce the resistance of olivine to solid flow; moreover, because olivine is so abundant, more water may be dissolved in olivine of the mantle than contained in Earth's oceans.^[6]

Mg-rich olivine has also been discovered in meteorites, on Mars, and on Earth's moon. Such meteorites include chondrites, collections of debris from the early solar system, and pallasites, mixes of iron-nickel and olivine. The spectral signature of olivine has been seen in the dust disks around young stars. The tails of comets (which formed from the dust disk around the young Sun) often have the spectral signature of olivine, and the presence of olivine has recently been verified in samples of a comet from the Stardust spacecraft

Reference: Wikipedia



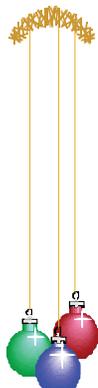
Holiday Dinner with the SPRC

Thirty or so SPRC members gathered on a chilly overcast Sunday afternoon for some good food and better company. Everyone stuffed themselves on chicken, ham, lasagna, various casseroles, and more than enough delicious cakes, cookies and pies.

Ron discussed our attempts at registering our new claim and invited members to volunteer their time as new board members since several are termed-out the end of this year. He then turned the floor over to Greg.

What followed was great: a White Elephant Auction for the SPRC coffers. We laughed as Ron and Akiko fought over a couple containers of homemade peanut brittle. They ended up splitting the two and spending a fortune on it. That had to be some special brittle!!! Surprisingly, Akiko fought just as hard for a stethoscope! Is something going on we should know about??? Paul bid on a "marshmallow blower" and claimed it was to blow stuff for his dog to chase, but pictures don't lie—check it out—he drew a bead on Renee right away!

We all had a great time, and those of you who couldn't make it—we are sorry. Maybe next year.



SPRC Business Meeting

Greenhouse Cafe
December 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

I would like to make a correction regarding the storage unit. It is on the first floor and has easy access; however we will still need to use carts or wagons to reach the unit unless we want to carry stuff back and forth. The cost will be \$45 per month for a 5 x 10 x 10 unit. This is a special price for non-profits. Attendees voted to get this unit and the move from the old shed on Lyon's Ave should happen on December 27. An email will be sent out to confirm the move date.

Guests from the last General Meeting: Barbara Cottage. No new member applications were received.

Shep's December Field Trip will be to the Cady Mountains. It is on December 12 and 13 and is an overnigher. Details will be in the December issue of the Pelonagram. We will be watching the weather and sending out e-mails about the field trip.

Ron and Diane are still working on the paperwork for the new claim. It must be submitted before the end of the year. It was voted to name the new claim the Diablo Onyx Mine.

No program was decided at this time for the January General Meeting.

Earl discussed the effectiveness of committees and communication with each other and the club.

It was discussed and agreed that each board and committee member compile a list of their responsibilities for the General Meeting before the potluck. This should encourage the membership to become more involved. WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A NEW PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR. Also Sarita would like to step down as Hospitality Chair. Greg has also stated he wouldn't mind if someone were to take over as Treasurer.

Come on members, there is a lot you can do in the club and according to Ron, it isn't hard and you will be backed up all the way by other members. We just need someone to step up.

The meeting was ended at 8pm.



December

Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise



The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*.

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.

Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.

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