

The Sierra Pelonaagram



May 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.



A Message from the President

It is May and summer is on the way. This weekend, the 15th will be our first trip to the new mine claim. Everyone who wants to go will meet at Mammoth Lane in Canyon Country at 7am. It should be quite warm, so bring plenty of sunscreen and water.

Next month will be the end-of-year picnic. It will be pot luck with the club supplying eating utensils and drinks. Details will be noted in another article in this issue.

Our club is continuing to grow, so try to remember to wear your name badges to the meetings and give a warm welcome to our new members.

See you next week at the General Meeting.

Bill Webber, President
SPRC

May Birthdays

George Bryson
Colleen Clough
Paul Kinney
Mike Moreno
Iony Panaitescu
Mike Serino



Officers:

President – Bill Webber
Vice-President – Ron Strathmann
Secretary: Minutes-Nancy Hilliard
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Pelonagram Editor – Heidi Webber
Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Al Brown
Field Trips – Bonnell Forstner
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathman
Programs – Mike Serino
Publicity – Diane Southwell
Storage - Mike Moreno
Sunshine - Evelyn Velie
Web site – 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/>

May

Emerald



Emerald is a beryl, like aquamarine. One is green, the other blue, the difference between them being of a chemical nature. Emerald is a silicate of beryllium and aluminum occurring in nature as crystals of a hexagonal pyramidal shape. The dichroism of the stone is conspicuous, varying from pale green to grass green and dark green according to the chromium content. Hardness is 7.5 on the Mohs scale, and the substance is brittle; so great care is needed during cutting and setting and in preserving the stone.

Emerald was known in ancient times. It was initially mined in the Ural Mountains, Siberia and Egypt. Following Spanish colonization of South America, a number of old Inca mines were discovered, and these have since yielded some of the world's finest specimens. The Muzo, Cosquez, Chivor and Gachaia mines in Colombia are still worked today.

More recently, veins have been found in Brazil, South Africa, Zambia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, but none of these stones can equal the beauty of the Colombian specimens.

A flawless emerald is very rare. Indeed, identification of a stone is greatly facilitated by the presence of inclusions or even slight fractures. Most emeralds on the market today contain inclusions that diminish their transparency. Often the colour is irregular, the stone being darker on one side than on the other.

Emerald is without doubt the most imitated beryl. Synthetic stones are produced in Germany (Zerfass), United States (Chatham) and France (Gilson), and it would be extremely difficult for a layman to distinguish a natural from a synthetic emerald. Even expert jewelers can make mistakes, and the Chelsea colour filter which was originally designed to identify emeralds, has proved its limitations in certain dubious cases. In similar circumstances an entire series of scientific tests is called for. In simple terms, verification of an emerald could prove a very costly operation, so I strongly advise you to seek the assistance of a reliable jeweler with a reputation to defend.

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word *smaragdus*, meaning *green* in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C. Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

Reference: Mineralzone and American Gem Society

Upcoming CFMS Shows

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

June 19-20 2010, Cayucos, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club

Cayucos Vets Hall (next to Cayucos Pier)

10 Cayucos Drive

Hours: 9-5 Daily

Mike Lyons (805) 610-0757

Email: jadestar@charter.net

Website: <http://www.slogem.org/>

July 10-11 19-20 2010, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterians memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)

Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5

Robert Thirlaway (310) 213-7677

Email: thirlawr@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>

Upcoming Field Trips with CFMS

Two Tourmaline Mines in Two Days!

June 21st:

The Oceanview - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$25 discount per person). Caravan to the Lake Henshaw Resort (I am working on a group rate reservation for the spaces next to the mine).

June 22nd:

The Himalaya - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$15 discount per person) Fossil Hunters Choice!

June 23rd:

Trip One - Ant Hill - More Strenuous Option

Trip Two - Jalama Beach - lead by Jon Meredith - less strenuous option Rock Hound or Tourist?

June 24th:

Trip One - Lavic Siding - lead by Jay Valle - More Strenuous Option

Trip Two - LA County Natural History Museum - lead by Dr. Larry Barnes- less strenuous option

Contact Robyn Hawk: robynahawk@yahoo.com

Weekend CFMS Double Tourmaline Trip is June 26-27

WHERE: The Oceanview and Himalaya Tourmaline Mines east of Escondido in the Pala Mining District on Route 76

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday June 26 & 27. The Oceanview on Saturday and the Himalaya on Sunday.

TIME: As set by each mine. PLEASE check their websites.

COST: Both mines are pay sites. Cost will be determined by the number of CFMS attendees. Each mine has a limited number of spaces so reserve early. First come, first served.

WEBSITES: 1) The Oceanview: www.digforgems.com for reservations, directions, mine info, costs.

2) The Himalaya: www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com for location, mine info, costs and places to stay.

MATERIAL: tourmalines, kunzites, lepidolites, quartzes, morganites, garnets, aquamarine and more.

ALL mine rules must be observed. When making reservations please put (CFMS) next to your name for tracking purposes and benefits and notify either me or Adam Dean that reservations were made. The Oceanview can accommodate 75 spaces; the Himalaya 50 spaces. We will meet each morning at the designated dig site at the designated times. Waivers of Liability will be signed at each mine by mine personnel.

Attendees of last year's trip found a wide variety of specimens including tourmalines in excess of 60 grams.

Please click the Federation website www.cfmsinc.org and click on "field trips" for pictures and reports of last year's trip.

Further questions should be directed to:

Shep Koss CFMS Field Trips - South Co-chair

freudonetoo@yahoo.com

land line: 661-248-0411

Adam Dean CFMS Field Trip - South Co-chair

theagatehunter@verizon.net

Cell: 909-489-4899

**SIERRA PELONA ROCKHOUND CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING
GREENHOUSE RESTAURANT
05/04/2010**

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 and Heidi Webber, Ron and Akiko Strathmann, Nancy Hilliard, Al Brown, Ron Lawrence, Bonnie Forstner, Mike Marino, Earl Kangas and Evelyn Velie

No New members.

Next General Meeting topics will be given by Evelyn who has a presentation of identifying true pearls from copies. Bring your pearls and lets have a great time!

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.

Question of what to do with clubs financial investments, which is reaching its term was pended for more research.

Diane was absent but sent her report that the new claim is being processed.

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. The club will order t-shirts for members to purchase, and an additional quantity to sell at events. We will also still offer the regular gray t-shirts in addition to the new blue ones.

Mike is recuperating nicely from his hospital stay.

Check your calendars for an upcoming one-day Tourmaline trip sponsored by Trip leader Bonnie. This trip would only cost an economical \$40.00.

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

There was a field trip on May 14 to explore our new claim. Great fun was had by all, and you can check your email for great pictures!

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

There was a large open house at the Nature Center on May 8 and they had a nice turnout.

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm

Records Diving

Going over the old records was a **TON** of fun, and we found some vedddddddddy interesting stuff that surprised all of us. We had a lot of laughs about some of it too. We also found some nice trophies that the club had won in the past; of course, we kept them.

We finished going through everything - about 8 boxes of stuff - in 2 hours and then spent a little time on how we should categorize the remaining records and documents.

We think there are a few more boxes of old records in the storage area, so we will pick them up at a later date and have another "Records Party."

Today, we did discard a **TON** of old records, but we kept all the Pelonagrams, old maps, financial records dating 2000 and forward, articles of incorporation, newspaper articles about the club, legal documents, claims records, etc.

Diane Southwell will be contacting authorities about the legal time requirements for keeping documentation on our claims.

I have started categorizing and sorting the remaining records in preparation for digitizing certain documents.

If you missed this party, you gotta make it to the next one.

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