

The Sierra Pelonaagram



May 2011

... 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.

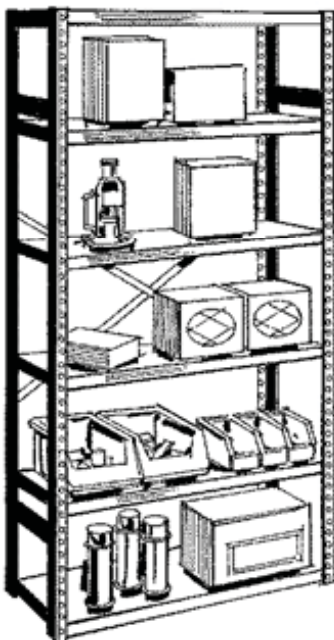


Message from our President

It is May and our summer hiatus is rapidly approaching. June will bring the end of year pot luck BBQ. Be prepared to sign up for a dish at the meeting next week.

We are going to be organizing the club storage shed, probably in the next week or so. We bought 4 heavy-duty shelving units which should fit all our paraphernalia. Out goes the old rickety wooden shelf and some other items that are useless to the club. This will make things so much easier to access.

So until next month, happy hunting!



May Birthdays:

This month we have a whole mess of “spring chickens”. Happy Birthday to you all!

George Bryson
Colleen Clough
Paul Kinney
Mike Moreno
Iony Panaitescue
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 – Open
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathman
Programs – Open
Publicity – Open
Storage - Mike Moreno
Sunshine - Evelyn Velie
Web site – Greg Mazourek

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/>

Sedimentary Rocks: Chert

What Is Chert, How Does It Form and What Is It Used For?



Chert: This specimen of chert is about two inches (five centimeters) across. It displays conchoidal fracture and has broken to produce sharp edges.

If the nodules or concretions are numerous they can enlarge and merge with one another to form a nearly continuous layer of chert within the sediment mass. Chert formed in this manner is a chemical sedimentary rock.

Some of the silicon dioxide in chert is thought to have a biological origin. In some oceans and shallow seas large numbers of diatoms and radiolarians live in the water. These organisms have a glassy silica skeleton. Some sponges also produce “spicules” that are composed of silica. When these organisms die their silica skeletons fall to the bottom, dissolve, recrystallize and might become part of a chert nodule or chert layer. Chert formed in this way could be considered a biological sedimentary rock.

What is Chert’s Composition?

Chert is a microcrystalline silicon dioxide (SiO_2). As chert nodules or concretions grow within a sediment mass their growth can incorporate significant amounts of the surrounding sediment as inclusions. These inclusions can impart a distinctive color to the chert.

What Color is Chert?

Chert occurs in a wide variety of colors. Continuous color gradients exist between white and black or between cream and brown. Green, yellow and red cherts are also common. The darker colors can result from inclusions of sediment or organic matter. The name “flint” is often used in reference to the darker colors of chert. Red to reddish-brown cherts receive their color from included iron oxide. The name “jasper” is frequently used for these reddish cherts.

What are the Uses of Chert?

Chert has very few uses today; however, it was a very important tool-making material in the past. Chert has two properties that made it especially useful: 1) it breaks with a conchoidal fracture to form very sharp edges, and, 2) it is very hard (7 on the Mohs Scale). The edges of broken chert are sharp and tend to retain their sharpness because chert is a very hard and very durable rock. Thousands of years ago people discovered these properties of chert and learned how to intentionally break it to produce cutting tools such as knife blades, arrowheads, scrapers, and ax heads. Tons of chert fragments have been found at locations where these objects were produced in what was one of the earliest manufacturing activities of people.



Chert Arrowhead: A chert (flint) arrowhead bound to a wooden arrow shaft with sinew. Image copyright by iStockPhoto and Brian Brockman.

What is Chert?

Chert is a microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline sedimentary rock material composed of silicon dioxide (SiO_2). It occurs as nodules, concretionary masses and as layered deposits. Chert breaks with a conchoidal fracture, often producing very sharp edges. Early people took advantage of how chert breaks and used it to fashion cutting tools and weapons. Dark varieties of chert are common and are often called “flint”.

How Does Chert Form?

Most chert forms when microcrystals of silicon dioxide grow within soft sediments that will become limestone or chalk. In these sediments, enormous numbers of silicon dioxide microcrystals grow into irregularly-shaped nodules or concretions as dissolved silica is transported to the formation site by the movement of ground water.



Occasionally, specimens of chert with attractive colors or interesting patterns are cut as gemstone. This chert cabochon is an example.

Chert is not found everywhere. It was a precious commodity that early people traded and transported long distances. As early as 8000 BC the people of what are now England and France dug shafts up to 300 feet deep into layers of soft chalk to mine chert nodules. These are some of the oldest mining operations ever discovered.

SPRC Business Meeting

Greenhouse Café

May 3, 2011

Ron Strathmann called the meeting to order.

The treasurer's report was discussed first. No upcoming bills for a few months. Mention was made about ordering more t-shirts and polo shirts. We have plenty of hats for sale. Need to check again with members for what they want and order some extras in the popular sizes. There was some talk about the upcoming shows and where to sell besides the annual Lombardi show.

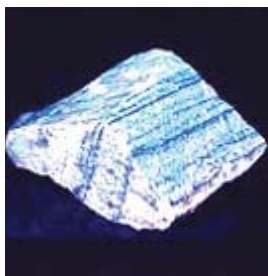
Field trip report – we will be meeting the girl scouts for a trip to Gem Hill again. The club needs a real good turnout to show the girls around. We will meet at the usual meeting place in Rosemond before heading to Gem Hill.

The shed was the next topic. The old Gem Fair wooden cases are in very poor shape. The electrical are ready for the trash as they are deemed to be unsafe for use. There was a motion to trash the old cases (maybe save one or two good ones if there are any good ones). Next motion was to give the TV to Mike M if he wants it, otherwise donate it to another member or the Goodwill. Bill has found some metal racks to replace to old wooden ones that take up a lot of space. The metal racks hold up to 1000 pounds. They are at a good price. Plan is to buy four to fit along one side with one rack in the back. There was a motion for Bill to proceed with the buy. All motions were seconded and passed (all in favor).

We held a lengthy discussion on the new claim. Mike S is still unable to get a good physical description. His call for help has gone unanswered. Ron L is to contact another member or two to see if they can provide some assistance. After setting the center post, measurements and directions will have to be obtain to each corner.

Vincent, from College of the Canyons, is to present at the general meeting (Tuesday May 17th). Ron L is to follow up with him and make sure he is still available. The was a discussion about changing the names on the CD or spend funds to buy a new projector that connects to a computer for the club. Greg M and Ron L were to get some quotes from local stores. Ron S said he would also check.

The summer picnic was tentatively set for June 11th as the best date. We were going to meet in the park as usual and eat at 11 or 12. More details to follow.



Aventurine Quartz

A variety of quartz spangled with inclusions giving a schiller, an unusual and attractive luster characteristic of certain minerals. It may be green, blue, red or yellow in color.

In the Far East it is used for elaborately decorated statuettes; in the West for small items of jewelry, necklaces and bracelets.

It is widely found in India, Russia, South Africa and China.

Care should be taken not to confuse blue aventurine with lapis lazuli and green aventurine with jade.

Name	Moh's	Specific Gravity	Structure	Cleavage	Refractive Index	Double	Disp.	Pleochro	Fluorescence
Aventurine Feldspar	6+	2.62-2.65	Triclinic	Perfect	1.532-1.542	0.01	None	Weak	Dark brown-red

Reference: *Mineralzone.com*

CMFS Calendar

MAY 2011

May 21-22 - JACKSON, CA

Fossils For Fun Society

Kennedy Mine

12954 Kennedy Mine Road

Hours: 9-5 daily

Debbie Bunn (916) 929-6665

Email: fossilsforfun@hotmail.com

Website: www.fossilsforfun.org

May 21-22 - YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Yucaipa Community Center

34900 Oak Glen Road

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Sheri Maisel (909) 797-0017

Email: Maisel909@aol.com

Website: www.yvgms.org

JUNE 2011

June 3-5 - WOODLAND HILLS, CA

Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society

Pierce College

20800 Victory Blvd

Hours: 9-5 daily

Gary Levitt (818) 993-3802, (cell) (818) 321-6290

Email: Show@Rockatomics.org

Website: www.Rockatomics.org

June 4-5 - 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 4-5 - LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society

La Habra Community Center

101 W. La Habra Blvd.

Hours: 10-5 daily

Dave Swarton (626) 912-1531

Email: swanni3@adelphia.net

Website: www.nocgms.com

JULY 2011

July 9-10 - CULVER CITY, CA
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

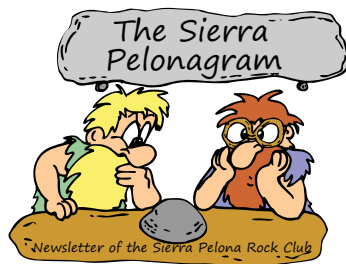
Veterians Memorial Auditorium

4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)

Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5

Robert Thirlaway

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



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