

The Sierra Pelonaagram



October 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

Fall days are here with cooler weather—nights at least—and many great trips on the horizon. Recently the club went to the rose quartz collection site and to Big Bear gathering crystals. In a couple of weeks we will be heading out to Lavic siding near Ludlow and in November to Ant Hill in Bakersfield.

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to Bud Sabatino, a new member who has already stepped up to the plate. Bud will be taking over the website as our new webmaster. Earl will help him to transition. I also want to thank Earl for his past performance on a very important aspect of our club.

We had a great time at Lombardi Ranch this past weekend. Thanks to all who showed up to help out in spite of the heat. It was great to see you. We sold a lot of stuff and need to replenish our stores of polished stone.

Don't forget that our meeting next week will feature Bonnie and Ron with a slide show and discussion of their Arkansas rock-hounding trip. We hope to see you all there.

Bill Webber
President, SPRC

October Birthdays

We have only two members celebrating their birthday this month, Team Gibson.

Happy Birthday Thomas and Audrey!!



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 Strathmann
Programs – Mike Serino
Publicity – Diane Southwell
Storage - Mike Moreno
Sunshine - Evelyn Velie
Web site – Bud Sabatino

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/>

Minutes of Sierra Pelona Rock Club Business Meeting

October 5, 2010

The meeting began at 6:40 PM

In attendance: Bill Webber, Heidi Webber, Ron Lawrence, Greg Mazourek, George Lawrence, Mike Merino, Mike Serino, Shep Koss, Evelyn Velie, Bud Sabatino, Ron Strathmann, Akiko Strathmann, Earl Kangas, and Frank Humelbaugh.

Heidi and Bill reminded everyone about Lombardi Ranch on this coming Saturday and Sunday, and asked for volunteers to set up, man, and tear down our booth. We will meet at the storage shed on Friday, at 2:00 PM to get materials for our booth at Lombardi Ranch.

Ron Lawrence announced that our field trip on October 23rd will be to Lavic Siding for jasper, then on to Pisgah volcano and Hector Hills area for glass marbles. Meeting for caravan and carpool will be at 7:00 AM at Mammoth Lane & Soledad Canyon Road.

A field trip to Ant Hill will be held on November 6th with the possibility of some gold panning at the park near Ant Hill.

Ron said the regular November field trip will be held one week earlier than normal due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The date of the field trip would then be Saturday, November 20th, to our Number 1 claim in Antelope Acres. We need to reset a post at the NE corner of the claim.

Earl Kangas will give Ron Lawrence a copy of all the maps, found in all the old records which are now computerized.

Shep Koss asked if a copy of the map of Frazier Mountain was found among the old maps - Earl said he'd check and get back to him.

Greg Mazourek gave the Treasurer's report and said, "We're doing OK, but we should be better after Lombardi Ranch."

Ron and Bonnie will give their presentation of their summer of rockhounding in Arkansas at the October general meeting. Ron Lawrence reported that Mary Bates from College of the Canyons will be the speaker at our November meeting. The topic has not been decided, but it will be geological in nature.

There was discussion about metal detector field trips to the beach or to a gold area near Randsburg, but there were no plans made to do anything.

Shep Koss brought in some excellent samples and explained what they were, and where he found them. Shep also reported the CFMS directors will meet at Visalia in November.

New member, Bud Sabatino, gave a brief presentation of his background and his work on web sites. It was approved that Bud & Earl work together on the web site, but Bud will take it over after a transition. Bud said that he needs input in order to update the web site.

Ron & Akiko Strathmann reported there were no new members and no new applications at the present time.

Frank Humelbaugh recommended a book "Geology of California" to help understand why certain rocks and minerals are found where they are.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.



Rose Quartz Trip

Let me first say that the rose quartz we collected in the Green Horns is very pretty, glassy and all shades of pink to violet with a few vogues of small crystals. The problem is limiting yourself to the amount you can carry back up to the cars. Going down is a bit slippery in parts but not a big problem and getting up empty



handed will wear you out but can be done. After a few hours of hammering off chunks of the material I had little energy left to carry it out.

Nine of us in three cars drove the thirty or forty minutes back from the sand shed to the parking area and after



a bite of lunch, headed down the hill. The first time someone new sees the material they are surprised by the color and quantity. The weather was a little warm, in the upper seventy's and sunny, but we brought plenty of water and were ready to hit the hill. Barbara and Jerry Farrar worked as a team and attacked the center on the hill with chisel and hammer near where Stephen Hobbs set up shop. The rest of us had been there before but the material can



get to you and you can want it all. Quartz chips are sharp and we may have left behind a little blood but everyone got out of there with all ten fingers.

In case some of you are wondering, Shep and I met up with Paul P., the owner of the claim, on Saturday and verified that it is his claim and after inspecting the hill, got his permission to collect on Sunday.



The Dexapan Shep brought up to crack open the hill didn't work as planned. It may have been that our drill holes weren't deep enough or not near enough together but when we checked on Sunday, there were no large chunks laying on the ground waiting



for us. We had to chip our own.

New Club Members

A few weeks ago Fred Ott had an article on the CFMS email site about what clubs can do for new members. I told him what our club does and our results. He asked me to put it in the newsletter.

Not only is each new member introduced at the general meeting but each new member receives a membership packet containing, among other things, a nametag, membership card, slab of the club rock but each new member is also added to both the mailing list and email list.

Since we have no lapidary shop each new member is invited to partake in the use of club equipment which is stored at various member's homes for slabbing, cabbing, tumbling, etc. Some members also offer their skills at silversmithing and wire-wrapping.

In the last three years our club went from near extinction to a 400% increase in membership. It was a multi-pronged effort by a number of dedicated club members.

The first prong was obvious, make the community aware of your existence. This was done in primarily three ways; get involved in community events such as nature centers, have a booth at community fairs, get involved with scouts and/or schools. We did all three but especially involving scouts on rock and fossil field trips for their badges. We expanded this with jewelry classes showing what they can create with their finds.

It is imperative that these events get publicized in the local paper to show what YOUR club does. Our local paper gave nearly full page write ups on these events complete with photos. The result? Many inquiries about our club and how to join! We created a Public Relations chair to make sure media was aware of our efforts and our results. Our website was updated and kept up to date. Untold numbers of club business cards and publicity fliers were handed out.

Of course not everyone remained members but with each drop-out new members joined resulting in a slow but steady continued increase.

Shep Koss - Sierra Pelona Rock Club Director--Excerpt from the CFMS October Newsletter

October Birthstones: Tourmaline and Opal



October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*. *Tourmaline* has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone’s taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.

Tourmaline is a crystal silicate mineral compounded with elements such as aluminium, iron, magnesium, sodium, lithium, or potassium. Tourmaline is classified as a semi-precious stone and the gem comes in a wide variety of colors. The name comes from the Sinhalese word “Thuramali” (තුරමලි) or “Thoramalli” (තරමලි), which applied to different gemstones found in Sri Lanka.

Brightly colored Sri Lankan gem tourmalines were brought to Europe in great quantities by the Dutch East India Company to satisfy a demand for curiosities and gems. At the time it was not realised that **schorl** and tourmaline were the same mineral.

The name *opal* derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning “to see a change (of color).” Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal’s beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature’s heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.



The water content is usually between three and ten percent, but can be as high as twenty percent. Opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown, and black. Of these hues, the reds against black are the most rare, whereas white and greens are the most common. These color variations are a function of growth size into the red and infrared wavelengths. Opal is Australia’s national gemstone.

Besides the gemstone varieties that show a play of color, there are other kinds of common opal such as the milk opal, milky bluish to greenish (which can sometimes be of gemstone quality), resin opal which is honey-yellow with a resinous luster, wood opal which is caused by the replacement of the organic material in wood with opal, menilite which is brown or grey, hyalite is a colorless glass-clear opal sometimes called Muller’s Glass, geyserite, also called siliceous sinter, deposited around hot springs or geysers and diatomite or diatomaceous earth, the accumulations of diatom shells or tests.

In the Middle Ages, opal was considered a stone that could provide great luck because it was believed to possess all the virtues of each gemstone whose color was represented in the color spectrum of the opal. It was also said to confer the power of invisibility if wrapped in a fresh bay leaf and held in the hand. Following the publication of Sir Walter Scott’s *Anne of Geierstein* in 1829, however, opal acquired a less auspicious reputation. In Scott’s novel, the Baroness of Arnheim wears an opal talisman with supernatural powers. When a drop of holy water falls on the talisman, the opal turns into a colorless stone and the Baroness dies soon thereafter. Due to the popularity of Scott’s novel, people began to associate opals with bad luck and death. Even as recently as the beginning of the 20th century, it was believed that when a Russian saw an opal among other goods offered for sale, he or she should not buy anything more since the opal was believed to embody the evil eye.

A Little Geology Lesson--*Excerpt from About.com*

Here are three simple words related to a very basic concept in geology: big particles in rocks. Actually, they're pieces of words—suffixes—that are worth knowing about.

Crysts

The “-crist” suffix refers to grains of a crystalline mineral. A -crist can be a fully formed crystal like your typical garnet, or it can be an irregular grain that, even though its atoms are all in rigid order, has none of the flat faces that mark a crystal. The most important -cristy are the ones that are much larger than their neighbors; the general name for these is megacrist. As a practical matter, “-crist” is used only with igneous rocks, although a crystal in metamorphic rocks may be called a metacrist.

The most common -crist you'll see in the literature is the phenocrist. Phenocrysts sit in a groundmass of smaller grains like raisins in oatmeal. Phenocrysts are the defining feature of porphyritic texture; another way to say it is that phenocrysts are what define a porphyry.

Phenocrysts generally consist of one of the same minerals found in the groundmass. (If they were brought into the rock from elsewhere, they may be called xenocrysts.) If they're clean and solid inside, we may interpret them as being older, having crystallized earlier than the rest of the igneous rock. But some phenocrysts formed by growing around and engulfing other minerals (creating a texture called poikilitic), so in that case they weren't the very first mineral to crystallize.

Phenocrysts that have fully formed crystal faces are called euhedral (old papers may use the terms idiomorphic or automorphic). Phenocrysts with no crystal faces are called anhedral (or xenomorphic), and in-between phenocrysts are called subhedral (or hypidiomorphic or hypautomorphic).

Blasts

The “-blast” suffix refers to grains of metamorphic minerals; more precisely, “-blastic” means a rock texture that reflects the recrystallizing processes of metamorphism. That's why we don't have a word “megablast”—both igneous and metamorphic rocks are said to have megacristy. The various -blasts are described only in metamorphic rocks. Metamorphism produces mineral grains by crushing (clastic deformation) and squeezing (plastic deformation) as well as recrystallization (blastic deformation), so it's important to make the distinction.

A metamorphic rock made of -blasts of uniform size is called homeoblastic, but if megacristy are also present it is called heteroblastic. The larger ones are usually called porphyroblasts (even though porphyry is strictly an igneous rock). So porphyroblasts are the metamorphic equivalent of phenocrysts.

Porphyroblasts may be stretched out and erased as metamorphism continues. Some large mineral grains may resist for a while. These are commonly called augen (the German for eyes), and augen gneiss is a well-recognized rock type.

Similar to -cristy, -blasts can display crystal faces in different degrees, but they are described with the words idioblastic, hypidioblastic and xenoblastic instead of euhedral or subhedral or anhedral. Grains inherited from an earlier generation of metamorphism are called paleoblasty; naturally, neoblasty are their younger counterpart.

Clasts

The suffix “-clast” refers to grains of sediment, that is, pieces of pre-existing rocks or minerals. Unlike -cristy and -blasty, the word “clast” can stand alone. Clastic rocks, then, are always sedimentary (one exception: a clast that is not yet wiped out in a metamorphic rock is called a porphyroclast, which, confusingly, is also classified as a megacrist). There's a deep distinction drawn among clastic rocks between holoclastic rocks, like shale and sandstone, and pyroclastic rocks that form around volcanoes.

Clastic rocks are made of particles ranging in size from microscopic to indefinitely large. The rocks with visible clasts are called macroclastic. Extra-large clasts are called phenoclasty—so phenoclasty, phenocrysts and porphyroblasts are cousins.

Two sedimentary rocks have phenoclasty: conglomerate and breccia. The difference is that the phenoclasty in conglomerate (spheroclasty) are made by abrasion whereas those in breccia (anguclasty) are made by fracture.

There is no upper limit to what can be called a clast, or megaclast. Breccias have the largest megaclasty, up to hundreds of meters across and larger. Megaclasty as big as mountains can be made by large landslides (olistrostromes), thrust faulting (chaoses), subduction (mélanges) and “supervolcano” caldera formation (caldera collapse breccias). Megaclasty are where sedimentology meets tectonics.



Barbara Farrar shows
off a crystal

Baldwin Lake Crystal Trip

Well some things went great about the Baldwin Lake crystal trip and some things didn't. We got to the meet spot just after nine and Dick Cattermole was waiting for us. We knew that Ralph and Sarita were camping up there and Jerry and Barbara were on their way.

Ralph found a glory hole where every handful was full of small crystals and clusters and the rest of us attacked the hill.

The sun was out most of the time so the crystals were easy to see, we just had to pick the larger ones. Bonnie had a baggie full and had more in her back pack and even though Dick was the first to leave, I know he had a bunch.



Bonnie really digs it!

I think everyone was happy with their finds and I hope they bring them to the General Meeting on the 19th.

The Serpentine War

By John Martin

Excerpt from CFMS Newsletter, October 2010

For now, the battle over the California State Rock, Serpentine, is over. The bill, SB 624, to remove Serpentine as The State Rock of California has died in committee.

The original bill was not about Serpentine, but was an act to amend Section 49120 of the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste (Garbage Collection and Disposal) and would remove the requirement that the city represented in this provision be incorporated. After the bill was introduced, voted on and passed in the senate, the bill was amended again in June of 2010 or should be correctly stated, completely re-written to change the content from garbage collection to Removal of Serpentine as the California State Rock. (The original vote of 36-0 did not change through all of the amendments) In the dark of night and behind closed doors the entire text and purpose of the bill changed and the vote remained the same.

That brings the bill to the War of The Rock. The bill as amended declares the rock "Serpentine" is asbestos and can cause cancer and should not be the state rock and must be removed. There is one last amendment to the bill which removes the reference to asbestos and cancer, all that remains in the bill is to remove Serpentine as the State Rock of California from Section 425.2 of the Government Code.

Part of the reason that this bill failed is because of the contacts made to State Officials by the Rockhound community. The voicing of outrage and concern over SB 642 helped to kill this bill.

All of those who contacted their representatives and spoke out over this piece of bad and unnecessary legislation deserve congratulations and a very big Thank You for their support. Even though it died in committee, comments that were received from State Senators and Assembly Members stated they were not going to support or vote for the bill if and when it came to the floor for final approval.

For more information on the bill and its amendments go to the ALAA Website www.aamlands.org/6652/67112.html and see the history on SB 642.

CFMS Shows

October 30-31 2010, Lakeside, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12584 Mapleview Street
Hours: 10-4 both days
Carolyn Boland (619)561-7498
Email: carolynboland@juno.com
Website: ecvgms.com

November 6-7 2010, Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre concord (in clayton Fair Shopping Center)
5298 clayton Rd. (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.)
Hours: 10-5 both days
harry Nichandos (925) 289-0454
Email: show9@ccmgs.org
Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 6-7 2010, Lancaster, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14
Hours: 9-5 both days
Susan Chaisson-Walblom (661) 406-0143
Email: sichaisson@yahoo.com
Website: .palmdalegemandmineral.com

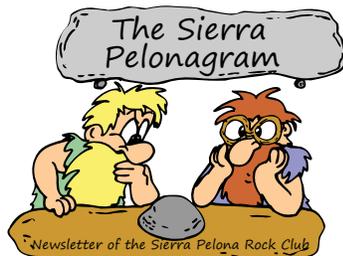
November 6-7 2010, Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 south Richmond Road
Hours: 9-5 both days
John DeRosa (760) 375-7905

November 12, 13, 14 2010, Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
Bob Johnson (916) 339-7007
Website: <http://www.Sacramentomineralsociety.org>

November 13-14 2010, Yuba City, CA
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds (Franklin Hall)
442 Franklin Ave.
Hours: Sat 9-5; Sun 9-4
Erik Anspaugh (916)567-9750
Email: inez_brg@yahoo.com

November 13-14 2010, Victorville, CA
Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino Co. Fairgrounds
14800 – 7th Street
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4
Cyndy Mandell (760) 508-1080
Email: cynmandell@yahoo.com

November 20-21 2010, Oxnard, CA
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-5
Frank Bouich (805) 271-0538
Email: show_info@oxnardgem.com
Website: www.oxnardgem.com



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
P.O. Box 221256
Newhall, Ca. 91322