

The Sierra Pelonaagram



October 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.

CFMS Shows

October 15: WEST HILLS, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church
22700 Sherman Way

Hours: 10 - 5

Mary Beth Pio

Email: info@rockchippers.org

Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 15-16: ANDERSON, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds

Briggs Street

Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Steve Puderbaugh, (530) 365-4000; Cell (530) 604-2951

Email: steve@applyaline.com

Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

October 15-16: PLACERVILLE, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds

100 Placerville Drive

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Karen Newlin, (530) 676-2472

Email: info@rockandgemshow.org

Show Website: www.rockandgemshow.org

October 15-16: SANTA ROSA, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

1351 Maple Ave

Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Debbie Granat, (707) 542-1651

Email: santarosarockshow@hotmail.com

Website: www.srmgs.org

October 15-16: WHITTIER, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society

Whittier Community Center

7630 Washington

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Marcia Goetz (626) 260-7239

Email: joemar1@verizon.net

October 22-23: LOS ALTOS, CA

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society

Los Altos Youth Center

One N. San Antonio Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 11 - 5

Steve Jobe, (408) 279-2069

Email: steve_jobe@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.pggs.org/

NOVEMBER 2011

November 5-6: CONCORD, CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Centre Concord

5294 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.)

Hours: 10 - 5 Daily

Harry Nichandos, (925) 289-0454

Email: brs@ccmgs.org

Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 5-6: LANCASTER, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds

2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14

Hours: 9 - 5 daily

Cheri George, (562) 243-8470

Email: lizardwoman3@yahoo.com

Website: www.palmdalegemandmineral.com

October Birthdays

I hope all your birthdays were or will be happy ones.

Dave D'Agostino

Joan Fincutter

Tom Gibson

Audrey Gibson

Greg Miner



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 – 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/>

Message from the President



Fall is definitely here in SoCal and we are getting ready to begin our desert outings. Ron has set up a trip for Ballarat marble and has plans in the works for other trips. Stay tuned.

Our weekend at Lombardi's was quite a success. We sold out of just about everything, so we didn't have to pack much on Sunday. Thanks to all those who came out to help. It was a bit on the warm side, but with a nice breeze and pleasant company, both days passed quickly.

Our Holiday Dinner will be December 18, starting around noon. The clubhouse will be open to us at 11 so we can set up. Feel free to come and help. Dinner will consist of the usual goodies from members' kitchens in the form of potluck. Evelyn will have a sign-up sheet at the next couple of general meetings. The club will supply all paper goods and eating utensils.

Elections will also be held during the dinner. Dianne and Akiko are the nominating committee and are working hard to fill the ballot for the officers of the board. If you are interested in being elected to the board, contact one of

them.

There will also be the usual White Elephant auction. Be sure to go through your stuff and donate items you would like to find a new home and a few bucks into our coffers. Greg M. usually does a great job as auctioneer and his lovely wife Brigitte plays the role of "Vana".

I want to extend a big "Welcome" to new members Joan Fincutter, Deb and Dave D'Angostino and Greg and Morgan Langewisch.

New member Greg has also set up a Facebook page for the club. All you have to do is "like" the page (after you search it on FB) and you will get club news and photos, etc. Greg has also said he will be the monitor of the page. Thank you Greg!

I'll see you all at the general meeting on the 18th.

Bill Webber

Business Meeting

October 4, 2011

Greenhouse Café, Saugus

The meeting was called to order by Bill Webber at 6:30. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Ron Lawrence, Greg Mazourek, Karen Kubota, Diane Southwell, Evelyn Velie, Mike Serino, Ron and Akiko Strathmann and Greg Langewisch.

Greg Langewisch offered to set up a Facebook page for members and other rock clubs. Photos and announcements, etc. would be available to anyone who "Likes" the page, so that updates will show on their wall. He offered to be the site administrator. Greg M. made a motion for Greg L. to check it out. Motion passed. (Note: the page was set up by the next day and seems to be doing well.)

Elections: Akiko and Diane have approached several persons to hold office in the upcoming elections. If you wish to run for any office, let her know ASAP so that your name can be placed on the ballot. Also, many of the chair positions are currently open or will be open, so feel free to let her or any board member know you are interested.

New Members: The board voted to admit new members Greg and Morgan Langewisch, Deb and Dave D'Angostino and Joan Fincutter.

Ron L. is planning a field trip to the Ballarat/marble collection areas on October 22. It is a moderately strenuous 1+ mile hike. Meet at the usual spot on Mammoth at 7am. Look for an email with further details from him.

It was noted that our travertine claim is one of the busiest claims in the state if not the country. Yay us!

The Holiday Dinner will be held in the Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse on Sunday December 18. It will be a potluck as usual. The club will provide paper goods and utensils. Members will provide main dishes, side dishes, desserts, drinks, etc. Evelyn will have a sign-up sheet at the General Meeting. There will also be an auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted by Heidi Webber

October Birthstone

October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*.

Tourmaline

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.

Unlike amethyst and topaz, tourmaline has escaped inordinate exploitation on the Brazilian market, probably because it is rarer and consequently more expensive. It is a mineral group of varying composition occurring in different colors, especially green, blue and grey. Pink specimens are known as rubellite.

Tourmaline has a deep brilliance and rich coloring. Transparent specimens being quite common, the stone is either cut as cabochon or faceted. Specimens with inclusions are used for beads.

Green tourmaline should not be confused with emerald, or red tourmaline with ruby. It has a wide distribution and is especially diffuse in Brazil and Madagascar. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.



Opal

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.

Opal, an amorphous form of hydrous silica, was once held to be unlucky, but maybe this was only because the stone is rather fragile and tends to chip and scratch easily. As it contains a high percentage of water, opal may deteriorate in heat and cold. Nonetheless, it is a very beautiful stone and, without wishing to contradict myself, it is even used as a lucky charm in certain countries.

There are numerous varieties of opal, each attractive in its own way. The harlequin opal, as the name suggests, gives a rich play of prismatic colors flashing from minute fissures, even when cut en cabochon. It is translucent and spangled with many shades of red, blue and yellow specks.

Common opal is a dull white or milky blue color and produces the same effects but to a lesser extent due to its opacity.

Fire opal is hyacinth-red to honey-yellow and shows intense orange and red fire-like reflections. It is the only variety that can be faceted, as some specimens are totally transparent.

Water opal is similar to fire opal, but is colorless.

Wood opal is due to the replacement of fossil wood by hydrous silica with perfect retention of the woody structure. It is cut with its matrix remaining for added strength.

Precious opal, if held to the light, shows a marvelous display of brilliant colors. It is the most prized of all.

Opal should be thickly cut due to its fragility, for the finer the cut, the more the stone will deteriorate in time. It is a good idea to wash opal in pure water every now and then so as to remove all traces of perspiration or cosmetics. In other words, opal is a good investment for the meticulous, less so for the negligent!

Even though extensive new deposits have recently been discovered in Australia, from which enough opal to virtually inundate the market could be mined, the price of this gem continues to rise.

Most opal comes from Australia, except for the fire opal which is found in Mexico.

Reference: Americangemsociety.com and Mineralzone.com





© geology.com

Iron Ore: A specimen of oolitic hematite iron ore. The specimen shown is about two inches (five centimeters) across.

Iron Ore

Earth's most important iron ore deposits are found in sedimentary rocks. They formed from chemical reactions that combined iron and oxygen in marine and fresh waters. The two most important minerals in these deposits are iron oxides: hematite (Fe_2O_3) and magnetite (Fe_3O_4). These iron ores have been mined to produce almost every iron and steel object that we use today - from paper clips to automobiles to the steel beams in skyscrapers.

How Does Iron Ore Form?

Nearly all of Earth's major iron ore deposits are in rocks that formed over 1.8 billion years ago. At that time Earth's oceans contained abundant dissolved iron and almost no dissolved oxygen. The iron ore deposits

began forming when the first organisms capable of photosynthesis began releasing oxygen into the waters. This oxygen immediately combined with the abundant dissolved iron to produce hematite or magnetite. These minerals deposited on the sea floor in great abundance, forming what are now known as the "banded iron formations." The rocks are "banded" because the iron minerals deposited in alternating bands with silica and sometimes shale. The banding might have resulted from seasonal changes in organism activity.

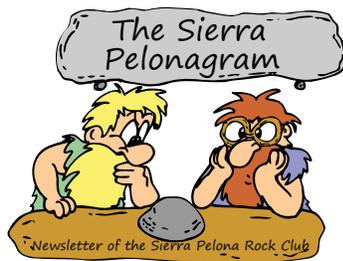
What is Iron Ore Used For?

The primary use of iron ore is in the production of iron. Most of the iron produced is then used to make steel. Steel is used to make automobiles, locomotives, ships, beams used in buildings, furniture, paper clips, tools, reinforcing rods for concrete, bicycles, and thousands of other items. It is the most-used metal by both tonnage and purpose.

Source: *Geology.com*



Banded Iron Formation: Close-up of a banded iron formation. In this specimen bands of hematite (silver) alternate with bands of jasper (red). This photo spans an area of rock about one foot wide. Photo taken by André Karwath, GNU Free Documentation License.



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