

**September 2009**

Hi Everyone.

Welcome to the latest edition of the Sierra Pelonagram. I have volunteered to continue to keep the Pelonagram in print. I am also very new to collecting rocks and minerals. The faces to the left could be self-portraits of my husband Bill and me. We joined the Sierra Pelona Rock Club a few months ago to try to learn as much about this new hobby of ours as possible.

Because of my almost complete lack of knowledge I am going to call on all of you to please help this newsletter by submitting articles; funny stories about collecting, informative articles and photos. Please submit your articles to me by the first of each month via email if possible. If you have MS Word that would be wonderful. Please be sure to include references when applicable.

In closing, I welcome you to the latest edition of the Sierra Pelonagram.

*Heidi Webber*

### **President's Message**

September is here and I'm ready to get going on a new season of rock hounding, not that there won't be plenty to share at the General Meeting on the fifteenth. A great tourmaline trip with the Federation, a Jade Cove-Cambria trip, and a little trip to North Carolina were just the high points of the summer. I've talked to a few of you and know that there will be many interesting displays set up in the club house.

Our first field trip is set for the twenty-sixth with a number of fossil locations from Simi Valley and further north. Jon will lead us to some areas he went to years ago and Shep has maps and directions to share. Check the Pelonagram and web site for meet times and location.

As the club grows it's going to happen that there are changes, new people join and other people move. Earl is on his last days in the area and even though he is giving up the web site he won't be that far that he can't join us on field trips and even show up at a meeting or two. We will really miss his work with the club.

This news letter will be the first for our new Pelonagram Editor Heidi Weber. She has done other newsletters and is currently doing one for Placerita Nature Center. Let her know that we appreciate her work.

Gather up all the rocks you collected, all the cabs and jewelry you make or bought or traded, and all the special items you haven't shared yet because I have a table ready for you to set up on. See you on the fifteenth.

### **FOSSILS FIELD TRIP**

#### **SATURDAY, September 26, 2009**

Since Sept may still be hot, we'll avoid a desert trip to kick off our field trips. What is planned is a fossil trip to Simi Valley for crab fossils then to Somis (near Camarillo) for brachiopods, etc.

We're attempting to obtain permission for the Somis hunt since this is private property. If time allows we'll also do Kanan Rd roadcuts for agate & nodules.

This trip will take place Sept 26 instead of the 19th (our usual trip date) due to the fact that a few of us will be out of state traveling to Oregon & Nevada for sunstone and opal (and a side trip somewhere). We'll be gone about 5 days. Care to join us for this one???

We will meet at College of the Canyons at 8am for an early start in case weather is warm. Stay tuned for updates and changes.

*Shep Koss*

*Field trip Chairman*

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.

**LATEST NEWS:**

**Colleen Clough**, the Club's Secretary for almost 15 years, has resigned the post. Colleen said, "It's time to give someone else a chance." Colleen has done a heckuva good job, and she will be hard to replace. Thanks, Colleen.

**Earl Kangas** is moving to Oxnard in mid-September, so the club needs a new webmaster and librarian. Any volunteers?

**Roy Palomino** is still unable to handle editing of the Pelonagram. Heidi Webber will be taking over that position.

If you have a few extra goodies, can you donate them to the raffle table? If so, see our good friend, Al Brown at the meeting.

At the board meeting on September 1st, there was discussion about the possibility of the club obtaining an additional claim, or maybe two more claims. If you think this is a good idea, let the club officers know where you think would be a good claim location.

**IMPORTANT: DO NOT FORGET!** It is time to start thinking about the election of officers for 2010. The nominating committee will make their proposal, but at this point, anyone can be nominated for any officer position. A slate of officers will be announced at a subsequent general meeting.

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB  
MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS**

Tuesday September 15, 2009

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB  
General Meeting**

This is our first general meeting for the new season. Our September meeting is always a lot of fun, and it is always very educational.

Tuesday October 6, 2009

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB  
BUSINESS MEETING (AKA Board Meeting)**

6:30 P.M. at the Greenhouse Cafe on the corner of Bouquet Canyon and Newhall Ranch Road.  
Members only

Saturday and Sunday

October 10th & 11th:

**LOMBARDI RANCH**  
Details later

Tuesday October 20, 2009

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING**  
Details later

**September Birthdays**

Dalon Burkhead  
and Bob Caudill

**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 – 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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the *SPRC website* designed by Earl Kangas

<http://www.sierrapelona.com/>

## Modern Birthstones for September and October

### September



The September birthstone, Sapphire is chemically and structurally the same as Ruby - both are varieties of the mineral corundum. Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies). Sapphire is also the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Taurus the Bull.

The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange-pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of sapphire gemstones.

Sapphires are well known from such places as Sri Lanka and India, and excellent specimens are also found in Tanzania and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. In addition, sapphires are found in many places throughout the world, including North Carolina, Brazil, and China.

Sapphires are extremely durable (only diamond and moissanite are harder). Artificial sapphire crystals are used as the crystal face in genuine Rolex watches, and they are extremely scratch resistant.

Oriented rutile crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-star light effect (called asterism) to form the popular Star Sapphire. A star sapphire is a type of sapphire that exhibits a star-like phenomenon known as asterism. Star sapphires contain intersecting needle-like inclusions (often the mineral rutile, a mineral composed primarily of titanium dioxide) that cause the appearance of a six-rayed 'star'-shaped pattern when viewed with a single overhead light source.

The value of a star sapphire depends not only on the carat weight of the stone but also the body color, visibility and intensity of the asterism.

The Star of India is thought to be the largest star sapphire in the world and is currently on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The 182 carat (36.4 g) Star of Bombay, housed in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., is a good example of a blue star sapphire.

### October



Most people consider tourmaline to be a single mineral. But in fact it is a group named for several different, but closely related minerals. Members of the Tourmaline Group are favorites among mineral collectors. Their rich and varied colors can captivate the eye. Even the black opaque tourmalines can shine nicely and produce sharp crystal forms. Tourmalines are cut as precious gems, carved into figurines, cut as cabochons, sliced into cross-sections and natural specimens are enthusiastically added

to many a rock hound's collection.

Tourmaline can be nearly any color of the rainbow, a fact used to colorful effect in some tennis bracelets. Elbaite is the tourmaline mineral that is most often found in jewelry, as its color is extremely variable with the most common colors being red, pink, green, blue, orange and yellow. Elbaite has many variety names based on color. A beautiful blue variety is called *indicolite* (also known as indigolite), the pink to red variety is called *rubellite*, and the green variety is known as *verdelite*. Often a specimen can have more than one color zone in the same crystal, with the most famous variety being a pink and green combination called *watermelon tourmaline*.

There are many unique properties of tourmalines. First, they are piezoelectric which means that when a crystal is heated or compressed (or vibrated) a different electrical charge will form at opposite ends of the crystal (an electrical potential). Conversely if an electrical potential is applied to the crystal, it will vibrate. Secondly they are pleochroic which means that the crystal will look darker in color when viewed down the long axis of the crystal than when viewed from the side. This property goes beyond the idea that the crystal is just thicker in that direction. Even equally dimensioned crystals will demonstrate this trait. This property can be used as an advantage by gem cutters who may wish to enhance a crystal's pale color or weaken a strongly colored crystal.

The four most common and well known tourmalines are distinguished by their color and transparencies. Elbaite is the gemstone tourmaline and comes in many varied and beautiful colors. It is transparent to translucent and is highly prized as minerals specimens and as gemstones. Elbaite is easily the most colorful of all the gemstones.

The iron rich schorl is the most abundant tourmaline and is black and opaque. It is a common accessory mineral in igneous and metamorphic rocks and can form nice crystals. Although too opaque to be used as a gemstone, schorl is used as an ornamental stone when found as inclusions in quartz, a stone is called "*tourmalinated quartz*". Usually when someone refers to tourmaline they are referring to either elbaite or schorl.

The two other more common tourmalines; dravite and uvite are much less common than elbaite or schorl, but they are getting noticed for their beautiful specimens. Some of dravite's crystals are nicely formed, translucent brown and they can reach a rather large size. Uvite is a green translucent to opaque tourmaline that is growing in popularity and is being cut as a gemstone. Reference: <http://www.galleries.com/minerals/birthsto.htm> and Wikipedia

# ROCKS IN MY HEAD!

## Heidi Webber

See if you can find the various rocks, gemstones, minerals and terms.



agate  
cleavage  
dursy  
flourescence  
geology  
igneous  
magma  
moh's  
pickaxe  
ruby  
silicate

atom  
coal  
electron  
fossil  
goldpanning  
inclusion  
matter  
neutron  
prisms  
sapphire  
sulpher

borts  
crystalline  
elements  
fracture  
gypsum  
jasper  
metamorphic  
nodules  
pseudomorph  
scheelite  
transulcent

brachiopods  
density  
epidote  
garnet  
hematite  
jewelry  
mica  
opaque  
quartz  
sedimentary  
tribolite

chert  
diamond  
feldspar  
gemstone  
hexagonal  
lapidary  
minerals  
pelonagram  
rockhound  
sierrapelona

## General Events from the CFMS Web Page

### September 19-20 2009, Redwood City, CA

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Redwood City Community Activities Bldg.  
1400 Roosevelt Ave.  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Carol Corden (650) 248-7155  
Email: [coorden@comcast.net](mailto:coorden@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm](http://www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm)

### September 19-20 2009, Stockton, CA

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 West Alpine Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
(209) 946-0113  
E-mail: [footsey1@yahoo.com](mailto:footsey1@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

### October 3-4 2009, Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum  
123 W. Alvarado Street  
Hours: 10 - 4 both days  
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130  
Email: [ikonmiming@gmail.com](mailto:ikonmiming@gmail.com)

### October 3-4 2009, Oroville, CA

Feather river Lapidary & Mineral Club  
Oroville Municipal Auditorium  
1200 Myers St.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Connie Rossetto (530) 59-1840  
Email: [crossetto@aol.com](mailto:crossetto@aol.com)  
Website: [www.orovillerocks.com](http://www.orovillerocks.com)

### October 10-11 2009, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat. 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4  
Jim & Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356  
Email: [sigms@iwvisp.com](mailto:sigms@iwvisp.com)  
Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

### October 17-18 2009, Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Rosa Veterans Building  
1351 Maple Ave. (Opposite Fairgrounds)  
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Kendra  
Email: [Summer\\_skys\\_27@yahoo.com](mailto:Summer_skys_27@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.gem-n-i.org](http://www.gem-n-i.org)

### November 7-8 2009, Lancaster, CA

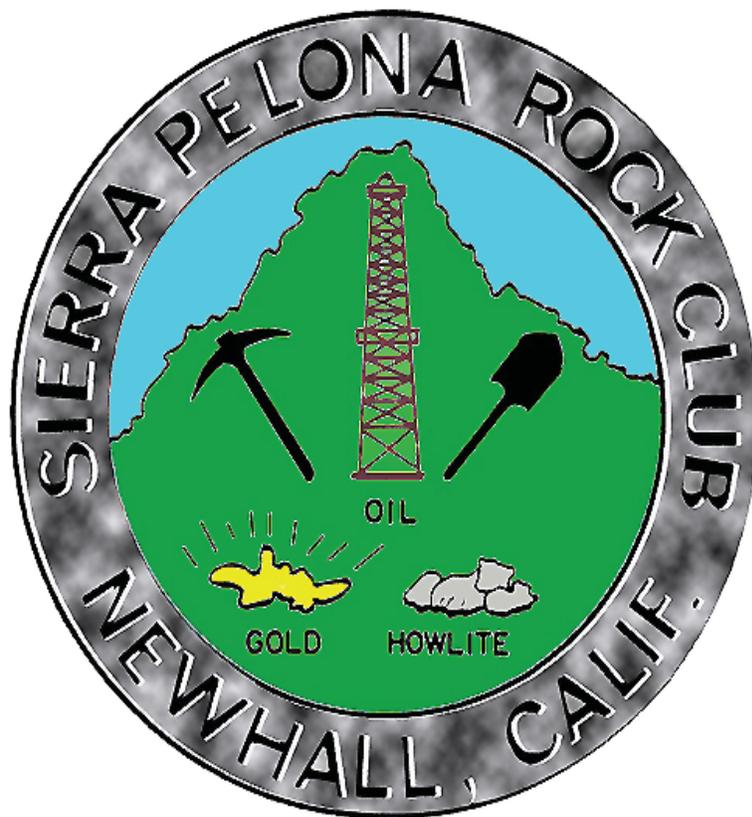
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Susan Chassin-Walblom (661) 943-1861  
Email: [SLChaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:SLChaisson@yahoo.com)  
Website: [palmdalegems.org](http://palmdalegems.org)

### November 7-8 2009, Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
Desert Empire Fairgrounds  
520 S. Richmond Rd.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
John DeRosa (760) 375-7905  
Email: [schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us](mailto:schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us)

### November 21-22 2009, Oxnard, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center  
800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4  
Norb Kinsler (805) 644-6450  
Email: [info@oxnardgem.com](mailto:info@oxnardgem.com)  
Website: [www.oxnardgem.com](http://www.oxnardgem.com)



---

*... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...*

---

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