

The Sierra Pelonaagram



September 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.

What Kind Of Rockhound Are You?

The Fortune Hunter - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

The Optimist - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

The Road Runner - No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wear-ing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

The Smasher and Basher - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway. *Scribe via Ft Lewis Rock Club News 6/01 via Golden Spike via Monrovia Rock Hounds*

GEOLOGIST AT LUNCH



September Birthdays

Robert Caudill
Stephanie Holgren



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 - Akiko Strathmann
Field Trips – Open
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathmann
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/>



Summer vacation is over. Time to get to work. We have a lot of neat things coming up in the next few months. This month's General Meeting Program will be the usual Show and Tell. Bring your summer finds or rock-related projects to share. Also bring finished cabs that

A Message from Your President

you would like to donate to the club. We plan to attach magnets to the backs and sell them at Lombardi.

The weekend of October 8 and 9, is our annual fundraiser at Lombardi Ranch. Please plan to assist in setting up and tearing down or help to man the booth. Even a couple of hours would be greatly appreciated. This is the main fundraiser of the year for the club and the more help we get, the less work there is for everyone else.

Ron Lawrence is opening up his shop and yard to have a work day as this month's field trip. It will be on SUNDAY, September 18 and we will be cutting slabs using several saws. We will also pool our money for lunch, maybe pizza, maybe not. Come and find out.

It is time to think about elections for the club. All positions are open.

Also, several of the committee positions are available, so please let us know if you are interested. New officers' terms begin at the January Business Meeting and it is a two-year term. Committee heads hold a one-year term.

I hope to see many of you at Ron's on the 18th and at Lombardi's. We need all of you to help as much as you are able.

One last thing. Al Brown has resigned from the club due to ill health. We are sorry to see him go and hope he stays in touch and even visits occasionally. Thanks for all you have done for the club, Al. We will miss seeing you behind the raffle wheel every month.

Until next month.

Bill Webber
President, SPRC

Tips on Tumbling

Bill has been using the club tumbler along with our own little one, 24/7 all summer long. So we are quite tuned in on the requisites for a good final product. We are still beginners and will make many mistakes, so here are a few tips that may be helpful to some of you.

Reference: Rocktumbling.com

1. Add a tablespoon of sugar to the final polish stage for that extra gleam.
2. Do not under-fill a barrel with water; you will end up with such a thick slurry that the stones will stick together as the water in the barrel gets more and more dense.
3. Dip your stones in super glue and allow it to set solid before starting out—this will fill any cracks or crevices and help prevent grit from passing onto the next phase.
4. Make a note of each tumble you do—how long each phase took, what rock type, etc. Experiment with the amount of grit you use at each phase and take notes.
5. A syringe is useful for oiling the bearings on the tumbler—you can avoid applying too much and having oil splash all over the place when you restart.
6. To prevent the stones from slipping during phase 2 and 3, stick small pieces of tough rubber to the inside of the barrel, this helps to trip them as they turn and prevents flats from forming.
7. Begin your tumble with rocks as near to round as possible, this is difficult to achieve but reduces the amount of wastage as you try to get that last long piece into shape.
8. If you are tumbling more than one barrel, make a note of the start date of each newly charged barrel. They quickly become out of step with each other and you need to know how many days have passed at each phase for each barrel.
9. For softer rocks, check on them on a daily basis as they can quickly disintegrate into mud—especially during the 80-grit phase.

SPRC Business Meeting
Greenhouse Café, Saugus
September 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Ron and Akiko Strathmann, Greg Mazourek, Ron Lawrence, Shep Koss and Evelyn Velie.

The treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Greg said that the claims fees have been paid.

Al Brown has resigned from the club, effective immediately, due to health problems. We all wish him the best and thank him for his involvement with the club. He has been told he is welcome to visit whenever he feels he can.

Akiko is taking over Al's position for the donation raffle at the General Meetings.

This month's field trip will be held on Sunday, September 18. Rather than a trip out to the desert, we decided it would be a good time for a work day at his place. He will send out an email with greater detail. Mostly it will involve cutting slabs and instruction to those who need it. Everyone can pool their money for a pizza or whatever for lunch.

Earl brought up the idea of selling advertising in the Pelonagram and web site. Shep looked into it and per the CFMS tax adviser, "paid ads may be considered taxable if gross receipts are more than \$1000 net per calendar year. Net income after exemption is taxed using IRS Form 990T (California Form 109)." It was proposed that the board to look into and allow advertising within the scope of rock and mineral collecting (including beading, wire-wrapping, etc.). The motion was seconded and passed (Greg/Evelyn). Someone now needs to take this and flesh out the "rules and pricing" as a procedure and then sell ad space. This will be addressed further at the next meeting. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

September General Meeting Program: Show and tell. Bring your summer-found treasures. Also, we would like for you to bring finished cabochons to donate to the club. They will be made into refrigerator magnets to sell at Lombardi. They should be of a decent size.

Also, it is time to form a nominating committee for elections at the general meeting. All positions are open, as are several of the committees.

The October program will be Part One of a two-part program Evelyn is developing. The first part will be a video and discussion on how diamonds are formed. The November program will be Part Two, where Evelyn does a more hands-on discussion, similar to the wonderful pearl presentation she did last year. THANK YOU, Evelyn! December will be the annual Holiday Pot Luck. Details on all the programs will be given as their date approaches.

We will also discuss things to donate for the Lombardi show. We will have a booth as usual, on October 8 and 9 from 8am until around 4. We need help both those days, so please let us know if you can come, even if it is for a couple hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.



Conglomerate Close-Up: A detailed view of conglomerate showing the pebble-size clasts with sand and smaller size particles filling the spaces between them. The largest pebbles in this view are about ten millimeters across. Image by the United States Geological Survey.



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

What is Conglomerate?

Conglomerate is a clastic sedimentary rock that contains large (greater than two millimeters in diameter) rounded clasts. The space between the clasts is generally filled with smaller particles and/or a chemical cement that binds the rock together.

What is the Composition of Conglomerate?

Conglomerate can have a variety of compositions. As a clastic sedimentary rock it can contain clasts of any rock material or weathering product that is washed downstream or down current. The rounded clasts of conglomerate can be mineral particles such as quartz or they can be sedimentary, metamorphic or igneous rock fragments. The matrix that binds the large clasts together can be a mixture of sand, mud and chemical cement.

How Does Conglomerate Form?

Conglomerate forms where a sediment of rounded clasts at least two millimeters in diameter accumulates. It takes a strong water current to transport particles this large. So the environment of deposition might be along a swiftly flowing stream or a beach with strong waves. There must also be a source of large-size sediment particles somewhere up current. The rounded shape of the clasts reveal that they were tumbled by running water or moving waves.

Conglomerates often begins by being deposited as a sediment consisting mainly of small clasts as shown in the photo below. The finer size sand and clay which fill the spaces between the larger clasts is often deposited later on top of the large clasts and then sifts down between them to fill the interstitial spaces.

What is Conglomerate Used For?

Conglomerate has very few commercial uses. Its inability to break cleanly makes it a poor candidate for dimension stone and its variable composition makes it a rock of unreliable physical strength and durability. Conglomerate can be crushed to make a fine aggregate that can be used where a low-performance material is suitable. Many conglomerates are colorful and attractive rocks that are rarely used as an ornamental stone for interior use.

Analysis of conglomerate can sometimes be used as a prospecting tool. For example: most diamond deposits are hosted in kimberlite. If a conglomerate contains clasts of kimberlite then the source of that kimberlite must be somewhere upstream.

Reference: Geology.com

Sapphire: September's Birthstone

Sapphire is a multi colored and extremely unique **September birthstone**. In fact, Sapphires can come in all colors except red. When heated to over 1,800 degrees Celsius, the gemstone will release color impurities. A stone with traces of brown or gray will be a perfect blue when the process is completed. Some people prefer the natural gemstone and consider such methods unnecessary. The most valued stone is the Star Sapphire. The unique pattern on the gem is in the shape of a white star.

Like most gems, the value of a Sapphire depends on the deepness of the color, the carat, and the visibility (if present) of an asterism. Like other gemstones, you can purchase synthetic versions of the gem. Significantly cheaper, such stones may offer significant advantages.



CFMS Shows

September 17-18: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum
2010 Riverside Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Dale Conrad, (805) 226-0719
Email: Conrad@att.net

September 17-18: STOCKTON, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
Scottish Rite Masonic Center
33 W. Alpine Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Jan Bradley or Dorothy Tonnacliff,
(209) 629-3837 / (209) 603-4539
Email: slmshow@juno.com
Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 23-25: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Park
6707 Little League Dr.
Hours: 9 to Dusk daily
Steve Williams, (909) 389-8680
Email: ironelk@ymail.com
Website: <http://obmsrocks.yolasite.com>

September 24-25: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Matt Biewer, (831) 659-4156
Email: mattbiewer@aol.com
Website: www.cvgms.org

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October 1-2: OROVILLE, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Oroville Municipal Auditorium
1200 Meyers Street
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Lori Millard, (530) 533-2968
Email: riverotter@jps.net
Website: www.oroverture.rocks.com
October 2: FALLBROOK, CA
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility
123 W. Alvarado St, Ste. B
Hours: 10 - 4
Janice Bricker
Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.fgms.org

October 8-9: GRASS VALLEY, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Kim Moore, (530) 470-0388
Email: kmoore160@comcast.net
Website: www.ncgms.org

October 8-9: TRONA, CA

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

October 8-9: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Sante Fe Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 Daily
Lois Harr, (760) 724-0395

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/