

# The Sierra Pelona nagram



September 2015

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

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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.

## Sapphire



Sapphire is a typically blue gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, an aluminium oxide. Trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, copper, or magnesium can give corundum respectively blue, yellow, purple, orange, or green color. Chromium impurities in corundum yield pink or red tint, the latter being called ruby.

The sapphire is one of the three gem-varieties of corundum (9 on the Mohs' hardness scale), the other two being ruby – defined as corundum in a shade of red, and padparadscha – a pinkish orange variety. Although blue is their most well-known color, sapphires may also be colorless and they are found in many colors including shades of gray and black.

Sapphires are mined from alluvial deposits or from primary underground workings. Commercial mining locations for sapphire and ruby include (but are not limited to) the following countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, India, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam.

In North America, sapphires have been mined mostly from deposits in Montana: fancies along the Missouri River near Helena, Montana, Dry Cottonwood Creek near Missoula, Montana, and Rock Creek near Philipsburg, Montana.

Fine blue Yogo sapphires are found at Yogo Gulch west of Lewistown, Montana. A few gem-grade sapphires and rubies have also been found in the area of Franklin, North Carolina.

Reference: Wikipedia



## Happy Birthday to Everyone!

I hope your special day is wonderful!

### September

Therese Edwards Sept. 5

Sandy White Sept. 18

### October

Omid Aeen Oct. 4

Linda Castro Oct. 1

William Edwards Oct. 2

Olive Edwards Oct 20

William Edwards Oct 10

Jane Sheppard Oct 6



### Officers:

President – Greg Langewisch

Vice-President – Trina Aeen

Secretary: Tina White

Treasurer – Ron Rackliffe

Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

### Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino

Donation Rock Table--Akiko Strathmann

Equipment--Bill Webber

Field Trips – Open

Historian -Open

Hospitality – Tina White

Membership – Heidi Webber

On-Line Presence (website)-- Larry Holt

Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber

Programs – Shep Koss

Publicity –Bruce Velie

Storage--Bill Webber

Sunshine--Brigitte 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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the SPRC website [www.sierrapelona.com](http://www.sierrapelona.com)



On Tuesday September 1st the rockhounding community lost a member who was in a class all by himself. As many of you know, Shep Koss recently passed from an aggressive illness. Shep was born in Germany, immigrated to Boyle Heights and later moved to Ohio where he got a degree from the University of Miami. He was a teacher, car salesman, and hotel night manager but he found rockhounding late in life. His love became a passion and he became an expert in the field. He was admired by all and passed on this extensive knowledge to the rockhound community. He made finds that are almost beyond belief, finding two out of three known brain casts of an extinct sea lion species. He served as the SPRC Federation Director for most of his almost eleven years in the SPRC. He lead many rock collecting trips for the SPRC and the federation. He went on many more, often by himself to collecting sites he read or heard about. He used that experience to co-authored and edited two rockhound books. His favorite trips had to be to Sharktooth Hill, CA for shark teeth, Pala, CA for tourmaline, Plush, OR for sunstone and Virgin Valley, NV for opal. One double-terminated tourmaline crystal he found was of museum quality. He was known by all and loved by many. He will be greatly missed, not only by his brother Barry but by the whole rockhounding community. Let us find comfort in knowing that Shep

is in a better place and no longer suffering any pain. He is probably still collecting many beautiful rocks and minerals. May he rest in peace.

President's Message is unavailable this month.

Minutes to both the Business Meeting and the General Meeting are unavailable this month.



### How to Carve Sandstone

By Leslie Renico

eHow Contributor

There are many examples of intricate artwork from ancient cultures, particularly in the Indian peninsula, that were carved from sandstone. Because other materials such as granite and marble are not as brittle as sandstone, it has lost some popularity as a carving medium. However, it is still possible to render beautiful works using this sedimentary rock.

Things You'll Need

- Sandpaper
- Leatherworking picks
- Sandstone
- Face mask for allergens
- Sheet or tarpaulin
- Drawing paper
- Pens or pencils

### Instructions

- Cover your work area with a large tarpaulin or sheet and put on a face mask. When you apply the sandpaper to the stone or start to pick at the stone, you will get a lot of flaking. In addition, sandstone contains silica, which can cause respiratory problems.
- Draw a sketch of your sculpture idea on a piece of paper, preferably from at least two different views. Having a visual idea of what you want to make will help when it comes to shaping and refining the sandstone piece.
- Use sandpaper to change the shape of the piece of sandstone before starting refining touches. Any cutting that you do with a carving tool suited for a harder rock will take away too much in flaking for you to retain a fine shape, so if you have a specific shape in mind, use sandpaper to wear away edges and corners interfering with that shape.
- Mark specific spots for cuts with a pencil right on the sandstone. If you have certain lines you want to follow, go ahead and draw those on the surface.
- Follow the lines you made with your leatherworking picks. Work at a slow but steady pace to reduce the chance of knocking off larger chunks with speed while also reducing the chance of losing your line by going too slowly.

Tips & Warnings

- Remember to wear protection over your mouth and nose so that you do not inhale the silica from sandstone.

Read more : [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_8336269\\_carve-sandstone.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_8336269_carve-sandstone.html)

## Sandstone

Sandstone (sometimes known as arenite) is a clastic sedimentary rock composed mainly of sand-sized minerals or rock grains.

Most sandstone is composed of quartz and/or feldspar because these are the most common minerals in the Earth's crust. Like sand, sandstone may be any color, but the most common colors are tan, brown, yellow, red, grey, pink, white and black. Since sandstone beds often form highly visible cliffs and other topographic features, certain colors of sandstone have been strongly identified with certain regions.

Rock formations that are primarily composed of sandstone usually allow percolation of water and other fluids and are porous enough to store large quantities, making them valuable aquifers and petroleum reservoirs. Fine-grained aquifers, such as sandstones, are better able to filter out pollutants from the surface than are rocks with cracks and crevices, such as limestone or other rocks fractured by seismic activity.

Quartz-bearing sandstone is converted into quartzite through heating and pressure usually related to tectonic compression within orogenic belts.

Sandstone has been used for domestic construction and housewares since prehistoric times, and continues to be used.

Sandstone was a popular building material from ancient times. It is relatively soft, making it easy to carve. It has been widely used around the world in constructing temples, homes, and other buildings. It has also been used for artistic purposes to create ornamental fountains and statues.

Some sandstones are resistant to weathering, yet are easy to work. This makes sandstone a common building and paving material including in asphalt concrete. However, some that have been used in the past, such as the Collyhurst sandstone used in North West England, have been found less resistant, necessitating repair and replacement in older buildings. Because of the hardness of individual grains, uniformity of grain size and friability of their structure, some types of sandstone are excellent materials from which to make grindstones, for sharpening blades and other implements. Non-friable sandstone can be used to make grindstones for grinding grain, e.g., gritstone.

Sandstones are clastic in origin (as opposed to either organic, like chalk and coal, or chemical, like gypsum and jasper). They are formed from cemented grains that may either be fragments of a pre-existing rock or be mono-mineralic crystals. The cements binding these grains together are typically calcite, clays, and silica. Grain sizes in sands are defined (in geology) within the range of 0.0625 mm to 2 mm (0.002–0.079 inches). Clays and sediments with smaller grain sizes not visible with the naked eye, including siltstones and shales, are typically called argillaceous sediments; rocks with greater grain sizes, including breccias and conglomerates are termed rudaceous sediments.

The formation of sandstone involves two principal stages. First, a layer or layers of sand accumulates as the result of sedimentation, either from water (as in a stream, lake, or sea) or from air (as in a desert). Typically, sedimentation occurs by the sand settling out from suspension; i.e., ceasing to be rolled or bounced along the bottom of a body of water or ground surface (e.g., in a desert or erg). Finally, once it has accumulated, the sand becomes sandstone when it is compacted by pressure of overlying deposits and cemented by the precipitation of minerals within the pore spaces between sand grains.

The most common cementing materials are silica and calcium carbonate, which are often derived either from dissolution or from alteration of the sand after it was buried. Colors will usually be tan or yellow (from a blend of the clear quartz with the dark amber feldspar content of the sand). A predominant additional colorant in the southwestern United States is iron oxide, which imparts reddish tints ranging from pink to dark red (terracotta), with additional manganese imparting a purplish hue. Red sandstones are also seen in the Southwest and West of Britain, as well as central Europe and Mongolia. The regularity of the latter favors use as a source for masonry, either as a primary building material or as a facing stone, over other construction.

The environment where it is deposited is crucial in determining the characteristics of the resulting sandstone, which, in finer detail, include its grain size, sorting, and composition and, in more general detail, include the rock geometry and sedimentary structures. Principal environments of deposition may be split between terrestrial and marine, as illustrated by the following broad groupings:

- **Terrestrial environments**
  - 1 Rivers (levees, point bars, channel sands)
  - 2 Alluvial fans
  - 3 Glacial outwash
  - 4 Lakes
  - 5 Deserts (sand dunes and ergs)
- **Marine environments**
  - 1 Deltas
  - 2 Beach and shoreface sands
  - 3 Tidal flats
  - 4 Offshore bars and sand waves
  - 5 Storm deposits (tempestites)



### Types of sandstone

All sandstones are composed of the same general minerals. These minerals make up the framework components of the sandstones. Such components are quartz, feldspars, and lithic fragments. Matrix may also be present in the interstitial spaces between the framework grains. There have been many published ways to classify sandstones, all of which are similar in their general format.

Source: Wikipedia

# Two Fundraising Events!

Don't Miss Our Fundraising Events For Shep Koss!



As many of you may know, one of our valued rockhounds has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Shep has been a huge part of the rockhounding community for many, many years. He has been a mentor to so many of us with his vast knowledge of rocks, fossils, gems and minerals. He is always willing to help and share his knowledge. We are fundraising to help with his expenses during this difficult time.

### Rock Sale!

We will be selling Shep's personal collection of material that he has collected over the years. The collection has plenty of Jasper, Agate, Rose Quartz, Obsidian, fossils, turquoise, faceted stones and many more items. Too many to mention all! Rough, slabs and cabs, jewelry, etc.

When: September 13, 2015 8:00am - 12:00pm  
**Absolutely No Early Birds!**

Where: 382 Chimney Canyon Rd.  
Lafec, CA 91243

**Bring your buckets!**

### Silent Auction!

Silent auctions to include Agate, Jasper, Obsidian, Rose Quartz, Fossils, and many more items. Rough, slabs, cabs, jewelry, 2 passes to the Oceanview Mine, Handmade spiritual healing drum, lots of exciting items!  
A 50/50 Raffle too!

When: September 20, 2015 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
**Absolutely No Early Birds!**

Where: Greenleaf Mobile Estates East  
21301 Soledad Canyon Road  
Canyon Country, CA 91351

Please remember this is a fundraiser to help one of our own during this difficult time, so generous attitudes are appreciated!

### OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

- **Donations needed!** If you have something you would like to donate, please contact: Ron Lawrence at [ronw1@aol.com](mailto:ronw1@aol.com) or Trina Azen at [trina@tmsn.com](mailto:trina@tmsn.com). If you are an artist and you would like to donate one of your creations along with a business card for the silent auction, that is welcome too!
- **Bring Cash!** We will also have a donation jar set up to donate cash or just the change in your pocket!
- **GoFundMe!** We have a fundraising campaign set up for Shep. Feel free to donate any amount you wish. [GoFundMe.com/shepkoss](http://GoFundMe.com/shepkoss)