

The Sierra Pelonaagram



April 2013

... 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.

Birthdays

Look at all the Spring Babies we have!

April

Deb D'Agostino April 3
Norma Holt April 8
Sarita Hyde April 9
Shep Koss April 14
Greg Mazourek April 12
Ron Strathmann April 11

May

Coleen Clough May 4
Paul Kinney May 27
Greg Langewisch May 24
Iony Panaitescu May 5
Mike Serino May 26



Copper Ore

Ore

Ores are the building blocks of most of the things that make life what we know it today. Most of the important items we enjoy or rely on are made - at least in part - by metals and other materials that were mined from the ground. And the source of those materials - copper, iron, silver, gold, silicon - is minerals.

What is an "ore"? An ore is a naturally occurring mineral from which it is profitable to extract elements or compounds, usually metals.

Notice that for a mineral to be an ore, it must be *profitable* to extract the metal or elements it contains. Therefore, if a mineral contains gold, but it would cost more to remove the gold than they would get when they sell the gold, it is not an ore. The funny thing with business is that a deposit of minerals might not be an ore today. But something changes, and the metal it contains becomes more valuable. Or, perhaps, a new, less expensive process for removing the mineral from the ground is invented. Then the price of the metal is *more* than the cost of removing it and the mineral now becomes an ore when it wasn't before.

Excerpt from Diamond Dan's Mini Miner Monthly

Officers:

President – Greg Langewisch
Vice-President – Bill Webber
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann
Equipment - Bill Webber
Field Trips – Open
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Janelle Williams
On-Line Presence (FB and website) - Larry Holt
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Bruce Velie
Storage - Vlad Litt
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

Visit the *SPRC* website <http://www.sierrapelona.com/>



Hello all.

I hope everyone had a fantastic March! We had a couple of events last month to reflect on. At the beginning of the month, there was the Stoddard Wells Tailgate, put on by the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. That was a fun event with lots of vendors and tons of good rocks and things to check out. We even had some of our own members with a table setup to sell their stuff. The show had a field trip, where we went out to collect some of the marble that the location is famous for. All in all it was another great day out in the desert. Later in the month, we were fortunate to get Jason Badgley to show us around Kanan Rd. in the Santa Monica mountains where we found agate and chalcedony pieces. It was a beautiful day for a hike and we got to explore a new area. So, thanks to Jason for taking the time to show us a pretty cool spot!

This month we'll have another field trip for the brave and adventurous among us. We'll be heading back out to the Southern Cadys to collect Strawberry Onyx. This is a very colorful onyx that can be collected by anyone willing to take the 2 mile (approximately) hike out there to get it. I hope to see a bunch of us there!

Besides the field trip, we will also be scheduling another club workshop over at Bill & Heidi's place. Those of us who went to the last one know what a successful event that was. So, I'm really looking forward to the next one! Also, the AV club is having their show at the end of the month. While we are not going to have a table at the show, it certainly will be worth going to the show and checking out all the good stuff! April is definitely looking like a good month for rock collecting!

See you all at the meeting!

April Birthstone: The Glorious Diamond



The slightly misshapen octahedral shape of this rough diamond crystal in matrix is typical of the mineral. Its lustrous faces also indicate that this crystal is from a primary deposit.

as boron and nitrogen. Combined with wide transparency, this results in the clear, colorless appearance of most natural diamonds. Small amounts of defects or impurities (about one per million of lattice atoms) color diamond blue (boron), yellow (nitrogen), brown (lattice defects), green (radiation exposure), purple, pink, orange or red. Diamond also has relatively high optical dispersion (ability to disperse light of different colors), which results in its characteristic luster. Excellent optical and mechanical properties, notably unparalleled hardness and durability, make diamond the most popular gemstone.

Most natural diamonds are formed at high temperature and pressure at depths of 140 to 190 kilometers (87 to 120 mi) in the Earth's mantle. Carbon-containing minerals provide the carbon source, and the growth occurs over periods from 1 billion to 3.3 billion years (25% to 75% of the age of the Earth). Diamonds are brought close to the Earth's surface through deep volcanic eruptions by a magma, which cools into igneous rocks known as kimberlites and lamproites. Diamonds can also be produced synthetically in a high-pressure high-temperature process which approximately simulates the conditions in the Earth mantle. An alternative, and completely different growth technique is chemical vapor deposition (CVD). Several non-diamond materials, which include cubic zirconia and silicon carbide and are often called diamond simulants, resemble diamond in appearance and many properties. Special gemological techniques have been developed to distinguish natural and synthetic diamonds and diamond simulants.

Reference: Wikipedia

In mineralogy, **diamond** (from the ancient Greek ἀδάμας – *adámas* “unbreakable”) is a metastable allotrope of carbon, where the carbon atoms are arranged in a variation of the face-centered cubic crystal structure called a diamond lattice. Diamond is less stable than graphite, but the conversion rate from diamond to graphite is negligible at ambient conditions. Diamond is renowned as a material with superlative physical qualities, most of which originate from the strong covalent bonding between its atoms. In particular, diamond has the highest hardness and thermal conductivity of any bulk material. Those properties determine the major industrial application of diamond in cutting and polishing tools and the scientific applications in diamond knives and diamond anvil cells.

Diamond has remarkable optical characteristics. Because of its extremely rigid lattice, it can be contaminated by very few types of impurities, such

Sierra Pelona Rock Club
Business Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
April 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In attendance were Greg Langewisch, Evelyn and Bruce Velie, Bill and Heidi Webber and Greg Mazourek. A quorum was met and the meeting commenced.

Shep was unable to come, but said the program for April will be Bakersfield Fossils and that he would be bringing samples and the stories that came with them. Anyone else who has samples of fossils from various trips to Bakersfield, feel free to bring them.

After some discussion, it was decided that we would skip the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Show this year. It was felt that for our club, the Placerita Open House and Lombardi Ranch venues were a better fit for the demographic present. We also find that we have better membership participation when we are doing these sorts of things closer to the Santa Clarita Valley. Greg L made the motion to forego the AV show, Heidi seconded and the motion passed.

This month's field trip will be for Strawberry Onyx near Ludlow at the South Cady's. There is a moderate to strenuous hike of about 2 miles. This is in Wilderness area so no wheeled vehicles are allowed, even wagons to pull by hand. It is strongly suggested that participants bring a backpack, water and snacks. There is a couple-mile road in that requires high-clearance or 4WD vehicles to get to the trail head. Arrangements can be made for carpooling to that point. More information will be forthcoming from Greg L.

Greg M brought up the fact that we do need to tweak the bylaws a bit more, and that we want to do it as painlessly for the membership as possible. Greg L moved that we present to the membership that we move by-law changes voting to the Business Meeting since it is an open meeting and anyone who is interested can vote simply by attending the meeting. Heidi seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber
Secretary, SPRC



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
March 19, 2013

The program for the evening was presented first tonight. It was on collecting in the Santa Monica Mountains by Jason Badgley.

Greg Langewisch was ill, so Vice-President Bill Webber presided. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Olivia Miseroy was introduced as our newest member and given her packet. Membership chair Janelle announced that 28 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

The next workshop will be held at Bill and Heidi Webber's home on SUNDAY, April 28 from 10 until 4 or so.

Bill reminded everyone that we need help for the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Show and to let us know what times they would be available.

Vlad Litt made a request that we email an inventory list to members so they know what equipment is available. (This was done right after the meeting)

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

Heidi S Webber
Secretary, SPRC

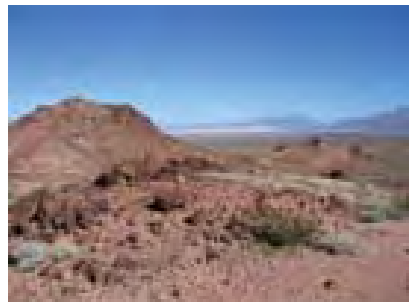
Strawberry Onyx

The field trip for April will not be for everyone, but will be a great trip for those who can make it. We will be going to collect Strawberry Onyx in the Bristol Mountains near Ludlow. Following is a blog and photos by DzrtGrls about their trip to collect the onyx. It looks like it will be a wonderful trip. Remember, this is a designated Wilderness Area and requires a 2-mile hike to the collecting spot. Bring plenty of water, snacks/lunch/ and a backpack big enough to carry your treasures out.

Vivid swirls and bands of reddish-pink characterize the strawberry onyx from the old Ribbon Rock mine. This material has often been referred to as the best onyx to come from the Mojave Desert. We'd known about this mine for some time. However, its relative isolation caused us to pass it by in favor of easier trips. Finally, curiosity got the better of us. After two weeks of incessant rain we were ready for anything! Our guide was Mitchell's *Gem Trails of Southern California*. We left Interstate 40 at Ludlow and traveled the power line road east for about 15 miles. The road is difficult, but nothing that



the average four wheel drive can't handle. We probably experienced worse conditions due to the erosion from the rains, but that will certainly be repaired in short order. As we turned off the power line road and onto the old road leading to the mine area we were struck by the solitude. The pink of the Kelso Dunes and the lofty Providence Mountains can be seen in the distance. We saw no cars or people until later the next day as we approached Kelbaker Road on our way back to the highway. Well, you're asking, was the trip worth it? Read on!



Kelso Dunes and Providence Mountains in the distance

The two mile hike through the wilderness area went quickly. The desert was green due to all the rain, and colorful rock formations abounded. As we approached the site we spotted the cabin! It's made of old railroad ties and at one time was covered with tar paper, chicken wire, and cement. Most of that is peeling off now. There's a little wood burning stove inside. The shaded porch made a great spot for our base as we hiked into the surrounding hills to see what was there. There was no one area where the onyx was mined. It came



from all over the hills, mainly to the east of the cabin. If you prowl around you can find huge boulders of it, find ledges of it, or look through the smaller rocks remaining around the quarry areas. The onyx is indeed beautiful! However, there is even more. If you follow a dim road further south from the cabin you will come to an area that has colorful jasper and agate. Some of the material here was very nice and was quite plentiful. Much of the jasper is tan with quartz stringers, but a reddish variety can also be found.



There are even pieces with the two colors mixed together. Time was our biggest enemy. By the time we had driven to the wilderness boundary and then hiked in, we only had about four or five hours to explore. We barely scratched the surface, but were very impressed. There is plenty of quality material, and the location is incredibly scenic. We'll probably have to go back! We had a hard time deciding what to take with us. In the end we took lots of photographs and just brought a few pieces of onyx back to polish.



For the hike back to the car, we passed up the road and instead explored a scenic wash which took us in the right direction. As the shadows lengthened and the bats flitted about, we set up camp just outside the wilderness boundary and spent a lovely night around the campfire while the full moon lit up the desert.

*Excerpted from DzrtGrls.com
Photos from DzrtGrls.com*



Looking down on the cabin and the pink hill behind it.

Pietersite

Pietersite was discovered by Sid Pieters in 1962 while he was prospecting some farmland in Namibia, Africa. After his discovery, he registered the find in the mineral records of Britain. His discovery was published in 1964, and the material was named pietersite. Currently there are only two known sources of pietersite: African and Chinese. Pietersite is considered a type of tiger's eye, having the same properties as tiger's eye but with different patterns due to its brecciated formation.

The fibrous structure in pietersite has been folded, stressed, even fractured and/or broken apart via the Earth's geologic processes. The fibrous materials have then been reformed and naturally re-cemented together by quartz. Stones and crystals that go through this process are referred to as brecciated, creating a finished product with multiple colors, hues and superb chatoyancy. While pietersite has the lovely chatoyancy of tiger eye, it is not found in continuously structured bands. Rather it can form in swirls, swathes and fibrous (sometimes linear) segments. Thus the structure of the fibrous streaks in pietersite may appear rather chaotic, and can flow or exist in many directions side-by-side like bold paint strokes.

African pietersite is the most sought after pietersite due to its wide range of colors. Colors include various blues, golds and reds that may appear together or alone. Blue is the rarest color, followed by red. The blues range from a baby blue to dark midnight hue. Golds can be light to very deep and rich, sometimes having a reddish hue. All fibrous color variations will have a superb and striking chatoyancy, the bright and subtly changing shimmer of color that moves along the surface of a gemstone as it is viewed from varying angles.

Chinese pietersite is said to have been discovered in 1993, but did not come to market until 1997. Chinese pietersite exhibits slightly different variations in color and patterns from the pietersite found in Africa. Its colors are primarily golden and bronze, but can also be found in blue shades.



Upcoming CFMS Shows

For more information, go to the CFMS website

April 12 - 14: VISTA, CA

San Diego County Council of Gem & Mineral Societies
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570

April 13 - 14: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Hwy 49 South (1.8 miles south of Mariposa)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Chel, (209) 742-7625
Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

April 13 - 14: PARADISE, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Elks Lodge
6309 Clark Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324
Email: mmpg@att.net
Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 20 - 21: THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: www.cgamc.org

April 20 - 21: SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Frank Mullany, (408) 265-1422
Email: info@scvgms.org
Website: www.scvgms.org

April 27 - 28: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092
Email: cjq_62@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

April 27 - 28: SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Center Street & Church Street
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Julia Cornblatt, (831) 687-0509
Email: scruzmgms@gmail.com
Website: www.scmgs.org

May 3 - 5: BISHOP, CA

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Bishop Fairgrounds
Sierra Street & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri 6 - 9; Sat. 9:30-5; Sun 9:30-3
Contact: Steve Mobley, (760) 793-6025
Email: steve@littlebearsteve.com

May 4 - 5: ANAHEIM, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30
Contact: John Walker, (503) 703-9465
Email: john_walker@juno.com
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 4 - 5: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum
2010 Riverside Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603
Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com
Website: www.slrockhounds.org

May 4 - 5: YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Scherer Center
12202 First Street
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 4
Contact: Lee Peterson, (909) 794-0731
Email: res09ayd@verizon.net
Website: www.yvgms.org/wiki

May 11 - 12: RENO, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center
1350 N. Wells Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Steve Norman, (775) 358-7322, cell (775) 560-4782
Email: snorm11@hotmail.com
Website: www.renorockhounds.com

June 8 - 9: LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Loretta Ogden, (909) 598-2456
Email: donogden@aol.com, fbriktr1@aol.com
Website: www.nocgms.com

June 28 - 30: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball Park
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily
Contacts: Ken & Jessica Gard, (909) 624-1782, (909) 887-5507
Email: kengard@roadrunner.com
Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

July 13 - 14: CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Rick Shaffer, (310) 391-8429
Email: info@culvercityrocks.org
Website: www.culvercityrocks.org

May 31-June 2: Ventura, CA
Annual CFMS Show and Convention "California Rocks"
Sponsored by:
Conejo, Oxnard and Ventura Gem and Mineral Societies
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W Harbor Boulevard
Hours: Fri and Sat: 10-5, Sun 10-4
Show Chair: Rob Sankovich
rmsorca@adelphia.net
805.494.7734
Show Website: www.cfms2013.com
Dealer Inquiries:
CFMS2013Dealers@gmail.com
805.765.1252