



THE LAPIDARIAN

**THE ROCKATOMICS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

ROCKATOMICS

GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 346 Canoga Park, CA 91305 - 0346

Web Site rockatomics.com

Objective:

The objective of "Rockatomics" is to assemble a group of people who are interested in the geological, mineralogical, lapidary, gem craft and precious metal jewelry hobbies in an atmosphere of good fellowship, sportsmanship, and community service.

Affiliations:

The Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society is under the auspices of The Foundation of Pierce College, Woodland Hills, California. Rockatomics is a member organization of the California Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

General Meetings:

A monthly general meeting is held on the second Monday of each month, currently, at Pratt & Whitney Rec. Center, West Hills. Meetings generally consist of a short business session, refreshments, and a program. Meetings are from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Officers and Chairmen of the Rockatomics Gem and Mineral society for 2008

President	-----	Tony Buendia
Vice President	-----	Jim Greik
Treasurer	-----	Open
Secretary	-----	Amira Rucker
Federation Co-Directors	-----	Gary & Maureen Levitt
Membership	-----	Ken Pazera
Bulletin Editor & Amenities Chairman	-----	Open
Historian	-----	Open
Librarian	-----	Ken Pazera
Program	-----	Amira Rucker
Lapidary Shop	-----	Open
Silver Shop	-----	Open
Tail Gate Show	-----	Gary Levitt
Web Master	-----	Gary Levitt
Classes	-----	Open
Refreshments / Holiday Parties	-----	Club Members
Field Trips	-----	Open

The Lapidarian

July 2008

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society

Show Chairmen's Report

I think we had a good show without it being a money making one. Fortunately, we had a nice cool weekend. Virginia submitted the final figures for the show take, minus the cost of the banners. Jim, Billy Rucker and I froze gallon jugs of water and ice cubes for two weeks so as not to have to buy ice for the show.

It did cost quite a bit more to put on the show at Pierce College than it did at our park. However, having it at the park was no longer an option.

Again, I had several complaints about the signs. People said they were blown over or placed in such a position that they couldn't be seen at all.

The new banners were made by someone at the college and they were supposed to get permits and put them up. I was told they did not do this. However that is Mr. Washburn's problem. As yet, they have not been paid for.

Jim and I are retiring from our Show Chairmen responsibilities. I just can't do it anymore. We thank all of you who have helped in the shows over the years. I will miss all of my friends. It has been fun. I will pass on all my information to Tony Buendia. Jim and I wish you luck and success.

Jim and Louise Gerik, Show Co-Chairmen

Pierce College Report

Mr. Washburn was approached about the possibility of storing and securing our shop equipment at the college. He said there may be a space available. The club hopes to move it soon. The final disposition or use of the equipment still has not been solved.

Treasurer, Bulletin Editor & Amenities Chairman Retire

Al and I have held these positions and responsibilities since 1992. We can no longer do so. We thank you for all your input, help and kind words over the years. It is time to let the young folks take over. We will give help, and all the accumulated materials to our successors. I am hoping that Linda Ralph will be our new editor. I think she would be great. This is my last bulletin.

Virginia Kilkka, Bulletin Editor

4th of July

America's 401st commemoration of Independence Day. Remember to hang out your flag.

Minutes of Rockatomics Meeting Monday, June 9, 2008

Our secretary, Amira Rocker, is still on maternity leave. Al Kilkka jotted down a few notes:

Cathy Buendia led the flag salute.

Al Kilkka gave the treasury report.

We voted to replace all three banners for \$100.00 in vinyl with two supporting poles. Tony suggested we get one banner for trial.

Louise gave the show report. Not more than a dozen people showed up on Friday or Saturday. We must find out why this happened and a solution for our next show. There was more traffic on Sunday. Some suggested that the mistaken \$5 charge for parking and the price of gas had something to do with it. We should, also, try to get a lunch truck next year. Perhaps a new date that wouldn't conflict with other shows and doings. Contracts for the 2009 show will go out in January.

We welcomed or new members, Gordon and Linda Ralph.

It was suggested that we might look into renting a space for our shop materials and have them available for use and classes.

We need to look into an outreach program for new members.

We will need to fill the vacancies for show chairman, treasurer, bulletin editor & amenities chairman.

Rock and Gem Magazine

The Rock and Gem Magazine has moved. If you want your show dates printed in the magazine they must be sent to:

Lynn Varon, Managing Editor (805) 644 - 3824 ext 29
Rock and Gems Magazine
290 Maple Street, Ste. 232
Ventura, CA 93003

Summer Field Trips

PALOS VERDE

Go to Malaga cove to search for glaucophane in various colors. Barite can be found in crystals down another switch back tot he beach. Another site in the area has dog tooth dolomite crystals.
Rocky Review 3 / '08

SANTA BARBARA AT COAL OIL POINT.

Marine fossils are found just north of Coal Oil Point. Take 101 north; about six miles north of Santa Barbara and take the Storke's Road exit, and turn left over the freeway. After crossing Holister, take a dogleg to the left, which is Colegio Road. Just a short distance further, turn right on Camino Corte, and at the end of it, turn right onto Del Playa Drive. Park at the end under the eucalyptus trees, where the stairway leads down to the beach. Search in the cliff to the right. Wear an old pair of shows, bring water, lunch and a bag for your fossils. A screwdriver can help you dig them out of the sandy cliff.

Geological Geophysical Maps for Rock Hunting: About.com is the quick and easy solution for links to state geological maps. If you go to their Geology or Maps sections and poke around there are pages of state geological orgs. They list state authorities and links to their websites. Once in those websites, you may frequently find free downloadable maps.
via *Chips 4 / '08*

NEXT CLUB MEETING

July 9, 2008 6:00 PM

The Ranch House in Pratt & Whitney's Park ,
West Hills Hills, CA

DEADLINE for all articles to be printed in the next bulletin July 18, '08

Southern California Rock and Mineral Shows

July 12 - 13, Culver City, CA

Culver city Rock & Mineral Club
Culver City Veterans Auditorium
4117 Culver Blvd. & Overland
Sat. 10 -6, & Sun 10 - 5
Rick Shaffer (310) 391 - 8429
E-mail: maryellenandrick@aol.com

August 1, 2 & 3, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church
298 South Thompson Ave.
10 - 5 daily
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 710 - 1983
E-mail: 4u@proigy.net

Los Angeles Natural History Museum in Exposition Park

A few years ago, our club made a field trip to the museum to see the Mineralogy Collection. It was well worth the trip. The displays are educational with world class specimens. The 'vault' contains faceted mineral crystals . Crystals of material usually seen as rocks not clear crystals. The gold collection is exceptional.

General Charles Forman, pioneer, Indian fighter, capitalist and a prominent figure in the early financial life of Los Angeles, made one of the first mineral donation the museum on November 9, 1913, just 3 days after the Museum officially opened its doors to the public.

The donation consisted of 5 boxes of specimens, including a large piece of gold ore from the Manet-Cosy mine in Nevada.

Submitted by *Christian Kilkka*

The Gem & Mineral Council at the Natural History Museum offers its members opportunities to advance their knowledge and enjoyment of gems and minerals at the museum. The council provides a varied schedule of activities including field trips, educational lectures, and exclusive events.

For information contact Council Coordinator Jean Brandt.
(213) 763 - 3326

JULY 2008 Amenities

7 / 4 Independence Day 7 / 9 Rockatomics Meeting

Birthday Greetings

7 / 6 Tony Buendia Jr. 7 / 9 Gary Levitt
7 / 22 / Louise Gerik

Birthstones for July

Ruby Hardness 9

News Of Our Members, Our Club, etc.

Gary and Maureen have returned from a great trip in Alaska. We hope to hear more about it. We are losing show chairmen, treasurer, bulletin editor and amenities chairman. They will have to be replaced. Please offer your help. It is time for the club to have some new 'young blood' take responsibility.

If you have any articles or news to share with our members, it would be appreciated. Please call or send information of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, retirements, illnesses, deaths, accidents, member news, selling of hobby materials, moving, etc., etc. You are part of our *Rockatomics Family* and we want to hear from you and share your news.

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society

We need the name of our new Bulletin Editor

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Refreshments and Program

Betty Bunch brought in her delicious home made lemon cake and a chocolate one. They were both relished. Betty generously shares her recipe for the lemon cake. Thank you Betty.

Ken Pazera will provide refreshments for July.

We had a program! Tony Buendia brought i his laptop and a projector in and showed pictures that he had taken at the show. What a treat.

ROCKHOUNDING

California's geological forces have created one of the widest varieties of rocks and minerals found in any state. By the 1930s, interest in rockhounding increased and it was during this period that rockhounding groups were formed and collecting areas in the desert were publicized.

With increased popularity of rockhounding, some rockhounds regarded certain areas as their own and feared that other collectors would deplete their find. This led to substantial amounts of material being removed and an increase in mining claims. By 1960 the government saw a need to regulate the collection on public lands.

Visitors to the Mojave Desert often ask where they can rockhound. The best source of information is rock, gem, and mineral groups found in communities throughout southern California. Libraries, bookstores, and "Gem & Mineral Shows" are also very good sources. Although any hill, mountain or wash can provide some wonderful rock and mineral discoveries, listed areas are some of the well-known sites visited by rockhounds in which good samples can still be found.

Via Rockhound Rambling 8/06