



Member
California
Federation of
Mineralogical
Societies



Member
American
Federation of
Mineralogical
Societies

The Lapidarian

Newsletter of

The *Rockatomics* Gem and Mineral Society

Please address Exchange Bulletins to:
Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society
Linda Ralph, Editor



Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society

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

Or on the web at: www.rockatomics.org

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 at Pratt & Whitney Employees Rec. Park in West Hills. Meetings generally consist of a short business session, refreshments, and a program. Meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



2008 Officers and Chairmen of the Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society

President	Antonio Buendia	
Vice-President	Jim Gerik	
Treasurer	Cathy Buendia	
Secretary	Amira Rucker	
Federation Co-Directors	Gary & Maureen Levitt	
Membership	Ken Pazera	
Bulletin Editor	Linda Ralph	
Web Master (rockatomics.org)	Gary Levitt	
Historian		open
Librarian	Ken Pazera	
Publicity	Louise Gerik & Amira Rucker	
Program		open
Amenities	Virginia Kilkka	
Lapidary Shop		open
Silver Shop		open
Tail Gate Show	Gary Levitt	
Classes		open
Refreshments/Holiday Parties		Club Members
Field Trips		open



Dues Schedule

- Annual dues for an individual - \$10
- Dues for additional individuals residing at the same address - \$7.50
- “Subscription” to a mailed copy - \$11
- Still no charge for membership or bulletin for life or honorary members



Federation Report

By Gary Levitt

Maureen and I will be attending the Federation meeting and will give a full report at our November meeting.

When we attended the Rockchippers show, I spoke with Jon Meredith. Jon is one of the vendors at our show. He will be leading a field trip for the CFMS in January. The trip is up the coast to Refugio beach for petrified whale bone. More info to come.

Show Report

By Gary Levitt

This month's report 'll be on the 'short side'. Thanks to Linda and Gordon Ralph. They will take care of copying Our show tickets. Maureen and I will be taking some to the CFMS meeting to distribute to the clubs attending the Federation meeting.

Editor's Report

by Linda Ralph

Since taking on this job I have been receiving quite a few newsletters from other clubs. It was suggested that I could make a notebook containing the bulletins so I took that good advice and will bringing the notebook to the next club meeting and all those following (if my brain cooperates). You all may look through the notebook and see what other clubs are doing these days. It's really quite interesting.



The Lapidarian

November 2008

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society



Happy Birthday!

Evan Buendia November 29



Birthstones for November

(information via CHARD)



Precious Topaz

Blue Topaz



Colour

Topaz is well known to be yellow, and in ancient times all yellow stones were called topaz. Nowadays we know better.

Topaz can also be colourless, blue, green, pink, orange or brown.

Chemical Composition and Name	$\text{Al}_2(\text{OH},\text{F})_2\text{SiO}_4$ - Aluminium Fluosilicate
Hardness	8
Refractive Index (Blue & White)	1.61 - 1.62
Refractive Index (Brown & Pink)	1.63 - 1.64
Bi-refringence (Blue & White)	0.010
Bi-refringence (Brown & Pink)	0.008
Other Optical Properties	Biaxial
Optic Sign	Positive
Specific Gravity	3.50 - 3.60
Crystalline System	Rhombic

Technical Information

Topaz is composed of Aluminium Fluosilicate, the fluorine (F) and the hydroxyl (OH) can partly replace each other.



Bi-Colored Amethyst Citrine

Pear shaped Citrine



Citrine

Citrine is the clear yellow or golden form of the mineral quartz. As such it is related to amethyst which is the purple form of quartz, and also to rock crystal which is the colourless variety.

Dual Personality

It is possible for some specimens of quartz to be different colours in different areas. Amethyst and citrine are varieties of quartz which can both occur in the same stone. As our photograph clearly shows, the difference in colour at the two ends create a striking contrast. Such stones are sometimes called ametrines, but we think they could equally well be called citrysts or citrethysts.

Technical Details

Chemical Composition and Name	SiO₂ - Silicon Dioxide
Hardness	7
Refractive Index	1.544 - 1.553
Bi-refringence	0.009
Specific Gravity	2.65 - 2.66
Crystalline System	Trigonal (Rhombohedral)
Optic Sign	Positive
Other Optical Properties	Uniaxial



A Rock Hunting Adventure

By Louise Gerik

Jim and I just returned from a rock hunting trip to Northern California and Oregon. We went with Beverly and Alan Darby. Although Jim and I do not dig rocks anymore we had a great time parked in the woods near a lovely little creek. Bev and Alan dug rock every day. Jim and I kept the campfires burning.

We sure liked the little creek, so clear and beautiful. Say some deer and one bear last year saw a bobcat but not this time.

Will be going to a rock show the first weekend in October. Hope to see some of you there.

Good luck with your show plans.



November 27th is Thanksgiving Day



BE THANKFUL.

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something,
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary,
because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things.

A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who
are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,
and they can become your blessings.

~~Author Unknown~~

TURKEY TRIVIA.

Ben Franklin thought that the turkey should have been our national bird instead of the eagle.

There is fossil evidence that turkeys have been around the Americas for 10 million years!



News of Our Members, Our Club, Etc.

If you have any articles or news to share with our members, it would be appreciated. Please call, send or even email 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! C'mon – tell me what you did this summer...really! A big **thank you** to Louise for her sharing her adventures with all of us. Hope to hear some more about other adventures from all of you out there!

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society

Linda Ralph

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Canoga Park, CA 91305-0346

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Deadline for all articles to be printed in the next bulletin is **November 20, 2008!**



CFMS Slide and Video Program Library

By **Bill Gissler**



46 SOCIETIES HAVE NOT USED THE PROGRAM LIBRARY IN SIX YEARS!

Over the last six years (2003 to 2008), I have kept records on which CFMS-affiliated societies have used the slide and video program library and how frequently. I found that each year we had around 80 requests, ranging from 1 to 3 programs per society, with a few societies requesting 4 to 10.

The 2008 CFMS roster lists 110 affiliated societies. By going through this roster, I listed 46 societies that had never once used the program library during my six year study. In terms of percentage, 42% have never used the library.

Why was that? Don't the Federation Directors of these societies tell their officers about the program library? I doubt if every society has a program library of their own. So why not use the CFMS slide and video program library a few times during the year? The 46 affiliated societies who have never used the program library in the last 6 years will be listed in my report at the November 8 meeting.



Why did the turkey cross the road?
It was the chicken's day off.



Southern California Rock and Mineral Shows

November 1-2 2008, Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord - 5298 Clayton Rd.
Clayton Fair Shopping Center
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287
Email: sdwools@earthlink.net
Website: www.ccmgs.org

November 1 - 2 2008, Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9-5 both days
John De Rosa (760) 375-7905
Vickie Black (760) 371-4416

November 1 - 2 2008, San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Al Bahr Shrine Center
5440 Kearny Mesa Road
Hours: Sat. 9:30-5, Sun 10-4
Alva Whetton (619) 823-6787

November 7, 8, 9 2008, Eureka, CA
Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society
Redwood Acres Fairgrounds
3750 Harris
Hours: Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
Toni Tyson (707) 725-2890
Email: BLUII911@msn.com

November 8-9 2008, Lancaster, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Susan Chaissin-Walblom (661) 943-1861
Email: SLChaisson@yahoo.com
Website: palmdalegems.org

November 8 - 9 2008, Yuba City, CA
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
"Festival of Gems"
Grace Franklin Hall
442 Franklin Avenue
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752
Inez Berg (530) 633-4612

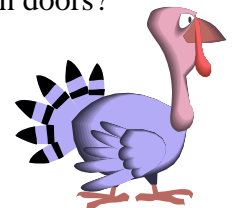
November 22-23 2008, Livermore, CA
Livermore Valley Lithophiles G & M Club
The BARN
3131 Pacific Ave. (East of Livermore Ave.)
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Elizabeth Myers (408) 897-3060
Website: www.lithophiles.org

November 22-23 2008, Oxnard, CA
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Miriam Tetrault (805) 642-5779
E-mail: miriamtetrault@hotmail.com
Website: www.oxnardgem.com

December 6-7 2008, Barstow, CA
Mojave Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 Both Days
Gene Haines (760) 256-0595
E-mail: email@mdgms.org
Website: www.mdgms.org

What key has legs & can't open doors?

A TURKEY.



Misc. Information

An email was sent in to our website from a local museum and I am reprinting it here for all of you just in case any of you may be interested in helping them. All the pertinent information is included in the email below as well as links to their organization. Looks like if you want further information you can also contact Dennis Washburn.

fyi

--- On **Tue, 10/28/08**, **Gerald R Fecht** <gfecht@sbcglobal.net> wrote:
From: Gerald R Fecht <gfecht@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: a message from Jerry Fecht - The Museum of the San Fernando Valley
To: info@Rockatomics.org
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 5:24 PM

Hello,

While attending a reception last week of the Pierce College Foundation, I was given a nice little fossil packet from your organization. Our group, The Museum of the San Fernando Valley is working to bring about a significant Museum of history and culture for the whole Valley. Dennis Washburn knows more about us.

We would like to make sure our geological history is given its rightful recognition. If you have announcements, or would like to talk with us, please do so.

Our blog address is:

<http://museumsanfernandovalley.blogspot.com/>

Gerald R. Fecht, Ph.D.

President

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley

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Woodland Hills, CA 91364

818.347.9665

<http://www.anchorededucationfoundation.org>



Next Club Meeting

Monday, November 10, 2008 6:00 p.m.
The Ranch House in Pratt & Whitney's Park
West Hills, California

Unfortunately there is not going to be a special program as planned, however, as discussed at the last meeting everyone **please remember to bring in a rock** so we can discuss how to indentify and learn about ROCKS. We can talk about how to indentify them in the field, where they are likely to be found, what they are used for, and why we love them so much.