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California  
Federation of  
Mineralogical  
Societies



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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](http://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.

## **2009 Officers and Chairmen Of the Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society**

President	Antonio Buendia	
Vice-President	Gordon Ralph	
Treasurer	Cathy Buendia	
Secretary	Cathy Buendia	
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		open
Program		open
Amenities		open
Lapidary Shop		open
Silver Shop		open
Tail Gate Show	Gary Levitt	
Classes		open
Refreshments/Holiday Parties		Club Members
Field Trips		open





## President's Report

By Tony Buendia

Thanks for all the members that attended March's meeting. It was a very informative meeting with Dennis's presentation on the construction plans at Pierce College, additional Tail Gate show location option and a new meeting location under the control of the Foundation. I'm looking forward to next month's meeting at a new location at the Pizza Farm at Peirce College and scheduled Program.

## Federation Report

By Gary Levitt

The big news from the Federation is the CFMS Show in San Jose. It will be held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on April 17 -19. It is a bit of a distance, but the venue is great and Federation shows are always awesome!

## Show Report

By Gary Levitt

It is hard to believe that our show is just a little over a month away. I hope you are prepared to participate. Over the last few months I have met with some of our dealers and they are excited about our show.

As you already know Jim and Louise will be participating. We spoke with Dennis (Washburn) and we may have a new venue for this year's show. If all goes well we will be located closer to the street which should help attract more people to the show.

When Maureen and I attend other rock shows we bring our show flyers. All of the clubs are good about allowing other clubs permission to put a pile of flyers on their welcome table. Keep in mind Maureen and I don't make every show. Sometimes, if we make it, it may be near the end of the show, so if you get there first, you know what to do.



# Happy Birthday



John Greenewald Jr.  
Lydia Buendia  
Virginia Kilkka

April 17<sup>th</sup>  
April 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 29<sup>th</sup>

## Aprils Birthstone – The Beautiful Diamond

### Pictures & info via CHARD



*A Pair of Black Diamonds*



*A trio of Beautifully Colored Diamonds*  
Below is a cluster of raw diamonds



<b>Gemstone Name</b>	Diamond
<b>Chemical Composition</b>	C <sub>n</sub>
<b>Chemical Name</b>	Carbon
<b><u>Hardness</u></b>	10
<b><u>Refractive Index</u></b>	2.42
<b>Bi-refringence</b>	0
<b><u>Specific Gravity</u></b>	3.52
<b>Crystalline System</b>	Cubic
<b><u>Dispersion</u></b>	0.044
<b>Thermal Expansion</b>	1
<b>Atomic Number (Carbon)</b>	6
<b>Atomic Weight (Carbon)</b>	12.0107
<b>CAS Registry ID (Carbon)</b>	7440-44-0
<b>Atomic Group Number (Carbon)</b>	14
<b>Atomic Block (Carbon)</b>	p-block

### **What is a Diamond? Carbon**

It may seem surprising that diamond is simply carbon, just like charcoal or graphite. In fact carbon has at least two other rare, and only recently discovered forms, or allotropes, known as fullerenes.

The difference is caused by the different types of bonding between adjacent atoms to form different types of crystalline structure.

In diamond, each carbon atom is bonded to four other carbon atoms in a tetrahedral structure, like a pyramid. Each link or bond is the same length, and the tetrahedral formation is therefore completely regular. It is the strength and regularity of this bonding which makes diamond very hard, non-volatile and resistant to chemical attack.

Theoretically a perfect diamond crystal could be composed of one giant molecule of carbon. Carbon is a non-metallic element with the atomic number of 6, and an atomic Weight of 12. In combination with oxygen and hydrogen it is contained by all living objects. In the form of graphite it appears black or dark gray, opaque, and is very soft, whereas in the form of diamond is it clear, colourless, and extremely hard. In fact diamond is the hardest known naturally occurring substance.

Carbon has a density of about 2.3 and diamond about 3.5.



## Field Trip Report

By Gary Levitt

I was so happy to see Linda and Gordon at the Stoddard Wells Tailgate! I hope they will have some stories to share at this month's meeting.



I will try to set up another field trip this month. More to be divulged at the meeting!



## Meeting Minutes for March 2009

- Flag Salute given by Gordon Ralph
- Topics of discussion:
  - Treasure's report: was given.
  - Pierce College update: Dennis reported that the Farmer's Market location for our Tail Gate Show would be an attractive option, due to its location visibility from the corner of DeSoto and Victory traffic, Farmers Market shoppers and the Special events that are scheduled during that time.
  - Show Chairman Report; so far 7 dealers have paid and the deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder notice will be given out soon to the dealers of this date. Tail Gate "Information Booth" will provide copied of the bulletin and generate an e-mail list of interested parties about our club including membership applications. Gary will survey our show dealers for their response in having our show adjacent to the Farmer's Market.
  - Publicity report: Linda shared the feedback from the Rock & Gem Magazine on the opportunity to have a free ad and/or run a special ad for \$ 29.75. The cost is min. so the consensus was to go forward with this special ad.
  - Field Trip News: Easter weekend 4/11 & 4/12 trip to Sierra Paloma Claim.
  - April's meeting Program: All members in attendance are asked to bring a Rock/Gem to "Show /Tell and Learn".
  - Next meeting location will be at Pierce College conference room by the Pizza Farm.

# The Lapidarian

April 2009

*Rockatomics* Gem & Mineral Society



## President's Message: Here's to the Show!



By C. J. Quitarano, CFMS President

Hi Everyone! As I write, I am traveling home from the Ventura show! I promised Jim B-T that I would write my message and get it to him by tonight, and he promised me that he would try to put a better picture in the newsletter! This weekend I knew how Britney Spears must feel, I had Paparazzi (Jim) chasing me around taking pictures! He says he's going to use a different (horrible) picture of me every issue of the newsletter. I also made it into the local paper, so I guess Jim wasn't the only one snapping a camera at me! I have a feeling he's going to use that one next...only because he told me he was going to! He has my permission; at least in that one, you can't see my face!

Anyway, enough about me...I hope you all are planning to attend our big show? I also hope everyone is planning on displaying? Last year, we had a great showing with all of the cases. Let's try and top that! I will be putting in a case of beads and spheres and jewelry, so I want to see what YOU have!

This year at Ventura, Dee Holland, Shirley Leeson, and Marion & Vivian Roberts came out to do critiques on entries in the show. I thought that was really gracious of them! I am sure they might yell at me for this...but I bet if you were to ask them to come to your show and do the same, they might just do it! Their addresses and phone numbers are in the newsletter! Ain't I a devil?

By the way, everyone should be taking advantage of the Program Directory and the Demonstrator/Dealer Directory this year for your meetings and shows! Ted and Terry will gladly send you copies of the directories if you just drop them a line. Both Directories have lots of info about people who put on programs or who demonstrate in your area and throughout the state. These are underused resources that everyone should be using!

Paradise is coming sooner than you think, so get your applications in; I hope to see many of you there! Meanwhile, see you at the show! - CJ



**Next Club Meeting**  
**Monday, April 13, 2009 6:00 p.m.**  
**The Ranch House in Pratt & Whitney's**  
**Park**  
**West Hills, California**



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April 2009

*Rockatomics* Gem & Mineral Society

### 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! **Really!**

*Rockatomics* Gem & Mineral Society

Linda Ralph

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Canoga Park, CA 91305-0346

[lkralph@att.net](mailto:lkralph@att.net)



**Deadline** for all articles to be printed in the next bulletin is **April 20, 2009!** Please respect this date so your editor can get the newsletter out to you on time. Thank you.

### Membership – Dues are (over) due

Yup, dues are due! Your club needs you. But we can't afford to keep sending you the bulletin.

So come to the April meeting and... or send your dues to the P.O. Box



### 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



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April 2009

**Rockatomics** Gem & Mineral Society

## Shows

### April 3-5 2009, Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society  
 Kern County Fairgrounds  
 1142 South P. Street - Corner S. P & Belle Terrace  
 Hours: 9-5 Daily  
 Contact: Lew Helfrich (661) 323-2663 /  
 cell (661) 378-4450  
 Email: [lewsrocks@bak.rr.com](mailto:lewsrocks@bak.rr.com)

### April 4-5: Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
 Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
 Highway 49 (S. of Historic Mariposa)  
 Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4  
 Diane Vereschagin  
 Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net)  
 Website:  
[www.thematrixmariposagemmineralclub.info/events.html](http://www.thematrixmariposagemmineralclub.info/events.html)

### April 18 - 19 2009, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral club  
 Lancaster High School  
 44701-32nd St. West  
 Hours: 9-5 daily  
 Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309  
 Email: [vivea22@yahoo.com](mailto:vivea22@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.geocities.com.av.gem](http://www.geocities.com.av.gem)

### May 16-17 2009, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
 Borchard Park  
 190 Reno Road  
 Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30  
 Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734  
 Email: [rmsora@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsora@adelphia.net)  
 Website: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)

### April 3-5 2009, Vista, CA

San Diego Co. Council of G&M Societies  
 The Tractor Museum  
 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave. & Museum Way  
 Hours: Fri. Noon-5; Sat. & Sun. 9-5  
 Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 7570  
 Email: [raysrock@cox.net](mailto:raysrock@cox.net)

### April 11-12 2009, Paradise, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral club  
 Paradise Elks Lodge  
 6309 Clark Road  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
 Carol Eggleston (530) 343-0894; Cell (530) 321-6941  
 Email: [cjeggy@chico.com](mailto:cjeggy@chico.com)  
 Website: [www.goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC](http://www.goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC)

### May 2-3 2009, Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
 Brookhurst Community Center  
 2271 West Crescent Ave.  
 Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4:30  
 James Williamson (714) 995-9080  
 Email: [showchair@searchersrocks.org](mailto:showchair@searchersrocks.org)  
 Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

### May 16-17 2009, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
 Yucaipa Community Center  
 34900mOaknglen Road  
 Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4  
 Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475  
 Email: [webmaster@yvgms.org](mailto:webmaster@yvgms.org)  
 Website: [www.yvgms.org](http://www.yvgms.org)