



P. O. BOX 51
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SANTA ANA ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

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 Web master Daiv Freeman 949 547-1384

WORK SHOP: At the Greene's (members only)
 first full weekend of the month 9 am to noon
 call tPam Greene at 949 548-0752
 To ask for flexible times

Santa Ana Rock & Mineral
 P.O. Box 51
 Santa Ana, CA 92702

CLUB PURPOSE

The purpose of the Club is to offer an opportunity for those who are interested in rocks, minerals and fossils, to gather at regular meetings, display and examine items of interest in the hobby, to promote and also encourage the art and practice of lapidary, to exchange experiences and ideas, to organize field trips for members and guests, and to promote the general interest in and knowledge of the hobby.

MEETING: Visitors are welcome!
 7:00 PM, 3rd Wednesday of the month
 except July & December.
 WHERE: 10739 Los Jardines West
 Fountain Valley, Ca 92708

SARM is a member of CFMS
 (California Federation of Mineralogical Societies)
 For more information on shows and events
 check out their web site at :



<http://www.cfmsinc.org>

CLUB PUBLICATIONS: All items may be quoted unless otherwise noted, we only ask that credit be given and we'll do the same.

BARTER ADS: Free lines to members for trading items - as space permits.

CLUB CALENDAR –FEBRUARY, 2012

- FEB. 4-5 SATURDAY & SUNDAY ***
 WORKSHOP 9:00 AM NOON
- FEB. 15 WEDNESDAY
 BOARD MEETING 6 PM
 GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM
 SILENT AUCTION / SARM'S BIRTHDAY
- FEB. 18-19 Field trip with the Searcher's
 To Four Corners & Castle Butte
- MAR. 3-4 SATURDAY & SUNDAY ***
 WORKSHOP 9:00 AM NOON
- MAR. 21 WEDNESDAY
 BOARD MEETING 6 PM
 GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM

**Happy
 Valentine's
 Day**



PRESIDENT'S DAY HUMOR

Donald Rumsfeld is giving the president his daily briefing. He concludes by saying: 'Yesterday, 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed'. 'OH NO!' President Bush exclaims. 'That's terrible!' His staff are stunned at this display of emotion, they watch nervously as the President sits, head in hands. Finally, the President looks up and asks, 'How many is a brazillion?'

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

Ronald Reagan: 'I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting'.

Barack Obama: "The reforms we seek would bring greater competition, choice, savings and inefficiencies to our health care system."

George W. Bush: They underestimated me.

George W. Bush: The ambassador and the general were briefing me on the - the vast majority of Iraqis want to live in a peaceful, free world. And we will find these people and we will bring them to justice.



**PRESIDENT'S DAY
 FEBRUARY 20**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2012

Thank you Chris and Carl for inviting Conrad Kurt Grundke to be our speaker at the January meeting. I really enjoyed his lecture and slide program. It was very interesting to learn about the American Masters of Stone. He is definitely one. I was surprised to learn that his technique is a type of mosaic. There is a Roman technique with grout and Florentine technique without grout.

My parents had a Mosaic business in the late 1950's and early 60's. Their first mosaic was a picture titled Easter Island. I have this at my home and enjoy looking at it everyday. It is Florentine with no grout. So many friends admired it that my parents decided to produce kits so people could do it themselves. DIY was born. My father quit his job as a commercial artist at North American in Downey and went into business with my mom. They worked out of our garage and put the kits together with the tile they imported from Venice, Italy. They would go to the docks in San Pedro and pick up the wooden crates of tile.

Conrad joins his shaped slabs of stone with 5 or 30 minute epoxy, as they are both clear when dry. We can do the same thing. By joining several slices of stones together we could make some very interesting cabs for instance. Why not try a few experiments.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Remember to bring a box for your winnings at the silent auction and your contributions for the auction itself.

Ciao, Carol



Ancient Roman
mosaic

UPCOMING MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2012

In 1960 an advertisement was placed in the newspaper seeking people interested in participating in bending over and picking up rocks and changing them into works of beauty. Thanks to that advertisement SARM will be 52 years old this month, so come and help us celebrate our birthday. Chris Mattison is bringing the Birthday cake.

In addition to celebrating SARM's birthday we will also have a Silent Auction. This is one of our most requested programs, and gives us a chance to visit with our fellow rockhounds in between bids.

Anyone can bring something to put on the auction tables. If you have some rocks, or rock related items you'd like to donate for the auction, (or even some non rock related items that you think someone would like) remember to bring them. We always have a lot of fun at these auctions, and your contributions will make it even better. It's a great opportunity to get some wonderful specimens at a fantastic price, while helping the club at the same time.

Bidding starts at 25 cents and goes up by 25 cents or more. **Check your bids often**, because someone may put a higher bid on the items you want!! When the timer rings, check the items you bid on, and if your name has the highest bid, pick up your items, along with the bid sheets and take them to the club treasurer.

We often have visitors for the Silent Auction so remember to greet strangers and make them feel welcome. We want to make a good first impression.

A baby rattle belonging to King Farouk had a jade handle topped by a diamond-encrusted crown. Rubies were inside, to make it rattle.

MMS Tumbler, 7/89 and many others

Minutes of the SARM Club Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

The January meeting was called to order by President Carol Williams at 7:00 PM and she led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Attendance included twelve members and two visitors. Chris Mattison, Vice President, enlisted suggestions from the members as to field trips and planned activities for the year.

The speaker for the evening was Conrad Grundke on the topic of Intarsia-- the art of making a mosaic out of stone. The presentation started with the history of the art form followed by a slide presentation showing artists and their work. This art form is a dying media and Conrad brought along a student (Kandy Uffer) that he is tutoring. The presentation was very interesting and informative and enjoyed by all. There were many questions and comments after the lecture.

Thanks went to Jim Burke and Jim DeMarco for the great refreshments..

The meeting for February will be the Club Birthday Party and a silent auction. The refreshments will be provided by the Club and Chris Mattison.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Recording Secretary, Carole Heslop

IN MEMORY OF

CHARLES HODKINSON

Charles was a lifetime member of SARM, who served in several offices including Show Chairman in 1970 and Vice President in 1968.

Our best wishes and Sympathy go out to his family.

AMETHYST - FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE



Happy Birthday

Feb.	1960	SARM
Feb.	11	Rachael Salas
Feb.	21	Daiv Freeman
Feb.	25	Liam Mattison
Feb.	28	Charlotte Spalding



Amethyst is the Birthstone for February. It is also the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Pisces. Amethyst is associated with spirituality, wisdom, sobriety, and security.

Amethyst is the purple variety of the mineral quartz and is a popular gemstone. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades. Its color is unparalleled, and even other, more expensive purple gemstones are often compared to its color and beauty. If it were not for its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive.

The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was perhaps due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered.

Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six sided pyramid at either end or can form as crystalline crusts that only show the pointed terminations.

amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to that particular region or even to that particular mine. Experts can often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's color, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

The following is a list of many of the more noteworthy localities and some of the attributes that characterize the amethyst found there.

- * Vera Cruz, Mexico -- very pale, clear, prismatic crystals, sometimes double terminated, that and have grown on light colored host rock. Crystals are typically phantomed, with a clear quartz interior and an amethyst exterior. Some are sceptered and phantomed.
- * Guerrero, Mexico -- dark, deep purple, prismatic crystals that radiate outward from a common attachment point. Often the crystals are phantomed (opposite of Vera Cruz) these have a purple interior with a clear or white quartz exterior. These are some of the most valuable amethysts in the world.
- * Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, Brazil -- crystals form in druzey crusts that line the inside of sometimes large volcanic rock pockets or "vugs". Some of the vugs form from trees that were engulfed in a lava flow millions of years ago and have since withered away. Other vugs are just gas bubbles in the lava. Some vugs can be quite large. The crystals that form are usually light to medium in color and only colored at the tops of the crystals. Most clusters form with gray, white and blue agate and have a green exterior on the vugs. Calcite sometimes is associated and inclusions of cacoxenite are common. On occasion, even excellent crystals of gypsum have been found nestled inside these amethyst lined vugs.
- * Maraba, Brazil -- large crystals with unattractive surfaces of a pale to medium color and often carved or cut into slices. The large points are always polished to remove the rough and milky surface, revealing the beautiful purple amethyst inside.
- * Thunder Bay, Canada -- a distinct red hematite inclusion just below the surface of the crystals is unique to this locality. Clusters are druzey crusts that line the fissures formed in ancient metamorphic rocks.
- * Uruguay -- crystals are dark to medium and form in druzey crusts that line the inside of volcanic vugs of a gray or brown exterior. The crystals are usually colored throughout, unlike the Brazilian crystals, and form with a multicolored agate that often contains reds, yellows and oranges. Often amethyst-coated stalactites and other unusual formations occur inside these vugs.
- * Africa -- crystals are usually large but not attractive. However, the interior color and clarity are excellent and polished slices and carvings as well as many gemstones are prized and admired.
- * Maine, USA -- Dark druzey clusters that are not widely distributed today.
- * North Carolina, USA -- Druzy clusters that have a bluish-violet tint.
- * Pennsylvania, USA -- druzey clusters that filled fractures in metamorphic rocks, usually a brownish purple with patchy color.
- * Colorado, USA -- druzey clusters form crusts inside fissures in sandstone, often on top of a crust of green fluorite. Crystals are dark but rather small.
- * Italy -- both Vera Cruz like crystals, although not as well defined, and large parallel growth clusters with good even color.
- * Germany -- associated with colorful agates that form a druzey light-colored crust.
- * Ural Mountains, Russia -- a very clear and dark variety that is cut for fine expensive gemstones, natural uncut clusters are rarely on the market.

Often, cut gems of amethyst are graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain to represent high medium and low grade respectively, regardless of the actual source. Because of the patchiness of the color distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is often cut as brilliant round cuts to maximize the color. Other cuts can be used when the color is better distributed.

The color purple is traditionally the color of royalty and amethyst has been used since the dawn of history to adorn the rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Today, amethyst is a lovely and affordable gemstone that is fortunately available in a wide variety of cut and uncut stones that we can all possess and admire.

**Field Trip -
February 18th and 19th, 2012
Four Corners (Kramers Junction, and Castle Butte**

The Searchers will be having a field trip to The Four Corners area with a side trip to Castle Butte on Sunday. SARM members are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to get to know other rockhounds, so I hope we have a good turnout. There will be a pot-luck dinner Saturday night.

There are large agate fields at both locations, as well as jasper and jasp-agate. Also there is a seam of Green White agate material with a rootbeer colored agate in the center. This requires some digging. The Searcher's will be camping near the four corners area. 4X4 should not be needed but high clearance is preferred.

Directions: Take the 15 Fwy north and exit the 395 just before Victorville. Take Hwy 395 approximately 43 miles to the intersection at the Hwy 58. Just before the intersection on the 395 there is a trailer with ANTIQUES written on the side. Enter the large lot right after the trailer on the right and there is a dirt road in the corner. There will be signs posted to the camp from there. The road is a little sandy and bumpy but should be easy enough for any vehicle. It was pretty chilly when we were there so wear layers. Most of the rock will be surface collecting but you might want to bring some digging tools and bars as well especially if you go for the root beer agate.

These are both easy to access collecting sites so if you don't have a high clearance vehicle or are afraid of dirt roads this is any one to get to without problems.

Astorite

Swirling pinks, clear and little fibers of gold and silver make up Astorite. The color ranges from pink, red, clear, white, dark with translucent to opaque areas, showing little flecks of gold and silver. This stone, its contradictions, colors, minerals and metallics, from composition to formation, is one of a kind.

Astorite is basically rhodonite, but in addition also contains - pardon us if we get rock-geeky here! - rhodochrosite, quartz (in the form of pseudomorphs, and chalcedony, after quartz), and ore gangue silicified (complex sulfide ore with native metallics of gold, silver, copper, lead and chalcopryrite). This combination is what gives it a special look - as far as we know, astorite is only found at a very remote area of Colorado in a mine located 12,000 feet above sea level in an avalanche chute.

The mineral and mine are named after the previous mine owner JOHN JACOB ASTOR IV. The wealthiest man in the United States at his death, his estimated value in today's dollars would be approximately \$1.3 Billion. He left a fortune that has continued to make the family name prominent. The Astor Mine in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado Astor was a well traveled man and knew quality and value. So it's not surprising that he found and purchased the Astor Mine in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. The mine was closed when John Jacob Astor IV went down in 1912 with the Titanic in the Atlantic. The portal was sealed upon John's death not to be reopened until 2001. Today this mine produces the finest unique ore body in the world, now known as "astorite."

Excerpted from <<http://www.trashcity.com/historyofastorite.htm>> and <<http://www.trashcity.com/astorite.htm>> , via The Rollin' Rock 4/2007



SHOP HINTS

CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish up your finished silver pieces. Surfaces are shined and hardened by the shot impinging on it. Carbon steel shot can get rusty and even stainless steel can develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove. My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. I'm no chemist, but I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick. While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

Bench tips from Brad Smith at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/



FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a Foredom over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and costs a little over \$10

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle". Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or better yet, a 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.

Bench tips from Brad Smith at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS



Jan 28—Feb. 11: TUCSON, AZ
 Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show
 4 locations
 Quality Inn - Benson Hwy
 I-10 Exit 262,
 Northeast corner of Benson Hwy at Park
 Hotel Tucson City Center
 475 N. Granada Ave, at St. Marys
 Ramada Ltd.—Downtown
 665 N. Freeway, at St. Marys
 Mineral & Fossil Marketplace
 1333 N. Oracle, at Drachman

February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA
 San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
 Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1
 Arabia Street
 Hours: 10 -10 daily

March 2 - 4: NEWARK, CA
 Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
 Newark Pavilion
 6430 Thornton Avenue
 Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

March 3 - 4: ARCADIA, CA
 Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
 LA County Arboretum
 Show is free but Arboretum charges entry fee

Adults	\$8
Student & Seniors	\$6
Children 5-12	\$3

 301 Baldwin Avenue
 Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily

March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA
 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 Ventura County Fairgrounds
 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

March 9 - 11: VICTORVILLE, CA (Stoddard Well)
 Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry (Stoddard Well)
 Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit
 from I-15
 Hours: 9 - 5 daily

March 10 - 11: PASADENA, CA
 Pasadena Lapidary Society
 Masonic Hall
 3130 Huntington Drive
 San Marino, CA 91108
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5

March 10 - 11: SALINAS (Spreckels), CA
 Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
 Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA
 5th & Llano Streets
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily

March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA
 Mother Lode Mineral Society
 Turlock Fairgrounds
 900 North Broadway
 Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily

March 16 - 18: SAN BERNADINO, CA
 Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
 Western Regional Little League Ball Park
 6707 Little League Drive
 9am to Dusk daily

March 17 - 18: VALLEJO, CA
 Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
 Solano County Fairgrounds
 McCormack Hall
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily

March 24 - 25: ANGELS CAMP, CA
 Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
 Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA)
 101 Frogtown Road
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

March 24 - 25: ROSEVILLE, CA
 Roseville Rock Rollers
 Roseville-Placer County Fairgrounds
 800 All American City Blvd. (off Washington)
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

March 31 - April 1: LEMOORE, CA
 Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society
 Trinity Hall
 470 Champion Street
 Hours: 10 - 6 daily

April 7 - 8: PARADISE, CA
 Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
 Elks Lodge
 6309 Clark Road
 Hours: Sat 9 - 5 ; Sun 9 - 4

April 13 - 15: VISTA, CA
 San Diego County Council of Gem & Mineral Societies
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
 2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
 Hours: 9 - 5 daily

