

CULVER CITY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB
P.O. BOX 3324 Culver City, Ca 90231



JULY 2009

Monday, JULY 13, 6:30 pmExec Committee:(Cancelled due to the Gem Show)
Monday, JULY 13, 7:30 pm..... General Meeting: (Cancelled due to the Gem Show)
(Program for the Meeting:"No scheduled program due to the cancellation of the

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

July, it's here again. Well, let's talk about the show. For those who work tirelessly on the preparation of the show, work during the show and tear down everything and put it back into the shop.... they know how this goes. What I don't understand is why the other half of the club doesn't get the idea. Now I also know there are issues of some which have health issues (and we commiserate with you) or live far away, but there are those who work at the shop almost every week and can't seem to make it to the show to help even one hour. Please call Robert Thirlaway (310-462-2269) or myself (310-391-8429) and commit to helping somehow. We still need members to aid in security, sign-in, plant sales, book sales and generally just walking around and helping out where needed. Well that's it for this year. As always, I truly expect that everything will work out and we'll have another great show. Think of this work as training, because we've only got two years until our 50th anniversary show.

Also, remember our July meeting is cancelled due to the dates of the show, so the next regular meeting is our August one. Another thing is the club picnic on Saturday, August 15 at Carlson Park in the park shelter, just on the other side (east) of Overland, off of Braddock. Time is 11 AM until 3 PM, meat is provided by the club, along with buns. What we'll need are side dishes and desserts. There'll also be a silent auction for everyone to participate in, and Bruce say's there'll be plenty of items to go around. Please come out and enjoy a summer day with all of us. It's always a great deal of fun.

Something to keep in mind, if any club member knows of a fellow member who is ill, or has had an accident, please let Lili Gelberg know as she's our Sunshine Chairman, and as such she sends our best wishes

to these members. The best way of contacting Lili is via e-mail at Liligpad@hotmail.com .

As far as the city and the club go, what we're now doing is gathering bids to take care of the Shop and then we have to bring these bids before the club to see how the general membership feels about the costs. After that we'll submit the bids to the city so they can review what we are planning (it is their building) and pass judgment on our plans. So as I said before, it's in the works for now.

Rick Shaffer,
President

PLEASE JOIN THE COOKIE CORPS:

WE NEED COOKIES MADE TO PRESENT TO
THE DEALERS AT THIS YEARS

“FESTIVAL OF GEMS”

PLEASE BAKE YOUR CHOISE OF COOKIES
AND DELIVER TO MARY ELLEN SHAFFER ON
THURSDAY, JULY 9th

PLEASE CALL MARY ELLEN AT 310-391-8429
SO WE CAN COUNT YOU IN FOR THIS YEAR.

WE NEED TO HAVE ALL COOKIES THURSDAY
SO THEY CAN BE PUT INTO BUNDLES FOR
EACH OF THE 25 DEALERS AS THEY SET UP
ON FRIDAY. WE TRY TO GIVE A DOZEN TO
EACH DEALER.

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MTG
June 8, 2009**

- Those present: Rick and Mary Ellen Shaffer, Dolores Dace, Leda Rogers, Ellen Moe, Grace Sato, Steve Dover, Robert Thirlaway, Anthony Ferrari, Bruce Mensinger, Sylvia Binkly, Sue Acosta.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by president Rick Shaffer. The minutes were approved as published in the Nugget
- Raffle tickets for the Show were passed out by the Treasurer, who also reported that we are very solvent.
 - The Club pic-nic was announced as being on Saturday, August 15 at Carlson Park
- Anthony Ferrari presented a membership application form for our web site. The matter was tabled and given to Membership Co-Chairs to be brought up in November for action. He also had a petition to preserve the Scout House and Shop. The president wants to consult with the CFMS legal counselor before anything is done. There will be a meeting on Friday at 7pm at the Shaffers in regards to the petition, i.e., What form should it take; if it should be done; and how to get signatures.
- Dolores Dace Education Chair alerted the committee about the state budget problem as it affects the Culver City Schools.
- Badges were discussed. Leda Rogers Membership Co-Chair had a catalogue. The Badge Committee of Leda Rogers, Sue Acosta and Minda Moe needs to meet.
- Bruce Mensinger Shop Chair reported that all the saws were presently working. There was a discussion about the fair use of time on the saws. Bruce Mensinger suggested that a saw could be reserved for Club business.
- Anthony Ferrari announced that he had invited the Boy Scouts to the Show and will be responsible for any presentations made to them.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Sue Acosta.
Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MTG
June 8, 2009**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by president Rick Shaffer who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A quorum being established, the minutes were approved as published in the Nugget
- New members, Bill, Vladimir, Phuong and Diane were presented.
- The Treasurer announced the availability of raffle tickets for the Show. Each member is required to sell/buy 1 book of 20 tickets @ \$10.00. The money goes to support our donations to the Culver City Schools and other charities. Cookies to be given to the dealers were solicited. They should be brought to the Shaffers on Thursday, July 8. There will be no Club meeting in July due to the Show.
- Field trip Chair Ellen Moe announced a June 13 trip in the Oxnard area for fossils and sand dollars. She has the information for those interested. She also reported on the trip last weekend to the Ocean View and Himalaya mines for tourmaline. Specimens collected are on view after the meeting.
- The August meeting and the pic-nic were announced. The meeting will be the 2nd Monday as usual and the pic-nic will be Saturday, Aug 15 at Carlson Park. The club will provide the drinks and hamburgers and hot dogs; members will bring salads and desserts. There will be a silent auction. No dogs are allowed.
- There will be no 'Trading Post tonight but there will be a free raffle for guests and members.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Sue Acosta
Recording Secretary.

PROGRAM REPORT

This was the annual work meeting for the Show where post cards were addressed and stamped and grab bags were filled. A good time was had by all.

respectfully submitted,
Sue Acosta
Recording Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hi everyone, yes it is almost time for our Fiesta of Gems show. I hope you have contacted Robert Thirlaway to let him know when you would like to volunteer to help out at the show. We need all the help we can get. Because of the show there will be no club meeting in July.

I'd like to welcome our new members to the club

Vladimir
Diane Di Tomasso,
Bill Henneberg.

They all signed up at the last meeting.

Leda Rogers
Membership Chair

*****REMEMBER*****
CLUB PICNIC LUNCH
AUGUST 15 AT CARLSON PARK
TIME: 11 AM UNTIL 3 PM

IN CULVER CITY, EAST OF OVERLAND
OFF OF BRADDOCK

THE CLUB PROVIDES THE MEAT & BUNS

CLUB MEMBERS PROVIDE SIDE DISHES,
DESSERTS (etc, etc) AND ALL THE FUN (JUST
WATCH US COOK)

GIANT SILENT AUCTION AFTER LUNCH, SO
BREAK OUT THE 'OL PURSE AND BE QUICK

SHOW REPORT

Fiesta of GEMS 48th Annual

We are getting very close to our Fiesta of GEMS annual show. This will be the last Nugget before the show. We could use about 30+ more people to volunteer to work at the show. We have all of the vendors setup to attend, many of you have received your post cards as a reminder. If you visit the Farmers Market in Culver City you may see Rick and Mary handing out our 3x5 advertising flyers. We will have flyers being handed out at the Venice Farmers markets between now and the show. We have sent show information to the Culver City Chamber of Commerce list of businesses for advertising. We sent the show vendors over 1200 postcards to advertise the show. CCRMC have sent over 1800 postcards to previous attendees. With all of the advertising, word of mouth and 47 years of previous shows we should have a great attendance this year. Again to meet our needs to support the attendees we need more volunteers to help Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please contact:

Robert Thirlaway @
310-213-7767 or
Email address
thirlawr@gmail.com



to volunteer a couple hours of your precious time this year. Also, I would like to request photos of your various rock hounding adventures, jewelry making, finished jewelry pieces for a slide show we will be presenting on a large screen at the show. The slide show will play continuously during the show hours. Please forward those pictures to Robert Thirlaway for a great slide show presentation.

Robert Thirlaway,
Show Chair

DONATION OF PLANTS

Our FIESTA OF GEMS show is fast approaching and we will need to have plants donated by our members that we can sell at our plant table. It is still not too late for all of you loving gardeners to start separating and replanting some of your green treasures so you can donate to our table. Any plants that you just don't want anymore are also welcome. Bring them Friday afternoon, July 10, Saturday, July 11 or even Sunday, if you can't make it before. We never have too many plants; all leftover plants are saved for the next year. If you have any vases, ceramic or plastic planters, garden ornaments or garden plant stands that you no longer want, please donate.

If you have home-grown, lemons, (no grapefruit), kumquats, fruit (please don't transport from a quarantined area), veggies, etc, I am sure they will sell and we will not be competing with the vendors. These must be good quality.

Another thought, maybe some of you can plead for something from your local nursery or just make a purchase to donate.

Also, I need 4-inch and 6-inch and gallon plastic containers please them to bring them to the shop. If you are not too far away from me (Santa Monica) I can pick-up.

Please contact me for pick up and questions.

Lorraine Murphy
1-310-452-1876
or lormurph@verizon.net

BIRTHDAYS

Dolores Dace	4-Jul
Vickie Grimsland	5-Jul
Diane Di Tomasso	7-Jul
Lili Gelberg	10-Jul
Daniel Ominsky	23-Jul
James Bapties	25-Jul

FIELD TRIP REPORT

The weather on Saturday at the Oceanview Mine in Pala was perfect for some serious dirt screening - in the mid-60's, slightly overcast and a nice breeze. All 64 CFMS guests dove into the huge pile of tailings after mine owner, Jeff, gave his demo and talk. Jeff had promised me that he spent most of Friday driving his skip loader all over Chief Mountain getting grade A tailings from several of the mines - the Elizabeth R, the Chief and the Oceanview. In the last year, I have been to the Oceanview about 6 times and the tailings this day had the most variety (quartz, beryl, spodumene and tourmaline) and the most goodies I have seen in all the visits. With this many experienced rockers screening, the tailings pile got lower than I have seen it ever. And, it seemed that in the last hour, people began to find some real treasures that had been settling down in the tailing mound for over a year. Rudy and Hannah Herbert of the Orange Belt club found three large nice tourmalines early in the day. The trip organizer Shep Koss found an extra nice over-300-carat green terminated tourmaline with a twin and some Clevelandite at the base. I was finding numerous small bright pink chips and several small but whole spodumene crystals until a 5 inch perfect quartz point popped out of the pile as I filled my bucket. I was filling my "give-away bucket" where I throw quartz chunks, schorl and other specimens to use for the Culver City kid's program. As the owner Jeff walked by, he glanced in this bucket and asked why one specimen was in there. Turns out, I found a doubly terminated, bicolored beryl (aquamarine and morganite) with small quartz crystals on the base. The colors were pale - so I just thought it was a somewhat ugly quartz. It was from the 49-er pocket hit the summer before. Jeff conducted a free raffle with some really nice specimens including a facet grade purple kunzite and several nice sized cut gems. There were three mine tours to accommodate everyone who was interested.

Sunday dawned a little warmer at the Himalaya gem dig which is located in the corner of the Lake Henshaw resort. Several of us had stayed overnight at the camp grounds or in the cabins and were ready to go as soon as mine owner Chris Rose (who made a special trip down from his Spectrum Mine in Oregon to be with us) checked us in. I'm not sure he and his staff were ready for 44 serious screeners plus about another

dozen walk-in customers (no reservations are needed for the Himalaya). Since the pile of dirt was disappearing quickly, a dump truck with fresh tailings from the hill near the mine arrived about 11 AM. But, by lunch, we had the pile down to the parking lot. Chris and Denise, who normally runs the dig for him, conducted multiple raffles including cut tourmaline and sunstones, nice tourmaline specimens and even some rough pink opal. I lost count of the number of items, but I think over half of the people there won something. A second dump truck came after a lunch break and the guys barely had time to empty the truck before buckets were being filled again. Several finger sized tourmaline crystals were found along with nice pencil tourmalines. The best find was apparently made right near the end when the 3rd pile of tailings was worked to the bottom - a 75 carat eye clean green section of tourmaline. My best find was a fist sized schorl that I found along the road before the screening started.

Almost everybody had a good time and left sore and tired. Since there seemed to be an equal number of people who thought they had better finds on Saturday as on Sunday, I think the two day/two mine trip was a great idea. And, for me, the hard work screening paid off much better than the hour spent waiting for a table for dinner at a local casino (who's idea was that, anyway? It was the most expensive "\$4.95 Prime Rib" dinner I've ever had after I killed time at a few slot machines). At the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club meeting that next Monday, 3 people who attended brought in our specimens to share and each of us had found a wide variety from both mines.

Thank you Shep for all your work taking reservations for this trip and thank you to Jeff and Chris for keeping these digs open so the public can come and learn about San Diego's amazing lithium pematites and sometimes come away with some nice specimens.

Ellen Moe

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

PS: Come see my pegmatite finds & collection in my display case at the Culver City Show on July 11th and 12th!

MINERAL REPORT

Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is a mineral composed of calcium fluoride, CaF_2 . It is an isometric mineral with a cubic habit, though octahedral and more complex isometric forms are not uncommon. Cubic crystals up to 20 cm across have been found at Dalnegorsk, Russia. Crystal twinning is common and adds complexity to the observed crystal habits. The word fluorite is derived from the Latin root fluo, meaning "to flow" because the mineral has a relatively low melting point and was used as an important flux in smelting. Fluorite gave its name to its constitutive element fluorine.

Occurrence

Fluorite may occur as a vein deposit, especially with metallic minerals, where it often forms a part of the gangue (the worthless "host-rock" in which valuable minerals occur) and may be associated with galena, sphalerite, barite, quartz, and calcite. It is a common mineral in deposits of hydrothermal origin and has been noted as a primary mineral in granites and other igneous rocks and as a common minor constituent of dolostone and limestone.

Fluorite is a widely occurring mineral which is found in large deposits in many areas. Notable deposits occur in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, Norway, Mexico, and Ontario in Canada. Large deposits also occur in Kenya in the Kerio Valley area within the Great Rift Valley. In the United States, deposits are found in Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Ohio, New Hampshire, New York, Alaska and Texas. Fluorite has been the state mineral of Illinois since 1965. At that time, Illinois was the largest producer of fluorite in the United States; however, the last Illinois mine closed in 1995. The largest documented single crystal of fluorite was a cube 2.12 m in size and weighed ~16 tons. One of the most famous of the older-known localities of fluorite is Castleton in Derbyshire, England, where, under the name of Derbyshire Blue John, purple-blue fluorite was extracted from several mines/caves, including the famous Blue John Cavern. During the 19th century, this attractive fluorite was mined for its ornamental value. The name derives from French "bleu et jaune" (blue and yellow)

characterising its color. Blue John is now scarce, and only a few hundred kilograms are mined each year for

ornamental and lapidary use. Mining still takes place in the nearby Treak Cliff Cavern. Recent deposits in China have produced fluorite with coloring and banding similar to the classic Blue John stone.

Fluorescence

Many samples of fluorite fluoresce under ultra-violet light, a property that takes its name from fluorite. Many minerals, as well as other substances, fluoresce. Fluorescence involves the elevation of electron energy levels by quanta of ultra-violet light, followed by the progressive falling back of the electrons into their previous energy state, releasing quanta of visible light in the process. In fluorite, the visible light emitted is most commonly blue, but red, purple, yellow, green and white also occur. The fluorescence of fluorite may be due to impurities such as yttrium or organic matter in the crystal lattice. It is not surprising, therefore, that the color of visible light emitted when a sample of fluorite is fluorescing appears dependent on where the original specimen was collected, different impurities having been included in the crystal lattice in different places. Neither does all fluorite fluoresce equally brightly, even from the same locality. Therefore ultra-violet light is not a reliable tool for the identification of specimens, nor for quantifying the mineral in mixtures. For example, among British fluorites, those from Northumberland, County Durham, and Eastern Cumbria are the most consistently fluorescent, whereas fluorite from Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Cornwall, if they fluoresce at all, are generally only feebly fluorescent. Fluorite also exhibits the property of thermoluminescence.

Uses

There are three principal types of industrial use for fluorite, corresponding to different grades of purity. Metallurgical grade fluorite, the lowest of the three grades, has traditionally been used as a flux to lower the melting point of raw materials in steel production to aid the removal of impurities, and later in the production of aluminium. Ceramic (intermediate) grade fluorite is used in the manufacture of opalescent glass, enamels and cooking utensils. The highest grade, acid grade fluorite, is used to make hydrofluoric acid by decomposing the fluorite with sulfuric acid. Hydrofluoric acid is the primary feedstock for the manufacture of virtually all organic and inorganic fluorine-containing compounds, including fluoropolymers and perfluorocarbons, and is also used to etch glass.

Fluorite is used instead of glass in some high per-

formance telescopes and camera lens elements. Exposure tools for the semiconductor industry make use of fluorite optical elements for ultraviolet light at 157 nm wavelength. Fluorite has a uniquely high transparency at this wavelength. Fluorite has a very low dispersion so lenses made from it exhibit less chromatic aberration than those made of ordinary glass. In telescopes it allows crisp images of astronomical objects even at high power. Fluorite also has ornamental and lapidary uses. Canon Inc. produces synthetic fluorite crystals that are used in their more expensive telephoto lenses. Nikon has previously manufactured at least one all-fluorite element camera lens (105 mm f/4.5 UV) for the production of ultraviolet images.

Fluorite objective lenses are manufactured by the larger microscope firms (Nikon, Olympus, Carl Zeiss and Leica) due to their strong hexagonal crystal structure most notable for evenly refracting light. Their transparency to ultraviolet light enables them to be used for fluorescence microscopy. The fluorite also serves to correct optical aberrations in these lenses

Nic Panagos
Mineral Chair

SHOP REPORT

Shop Status Update

On May 26, 2009 we again met with employees of Culver City and representatives of the Boy Scouts in private session. In addition, Culver City Mayor Scott Malsin was present. We were sent, earlier in the week, a summary of the Inspection report from which we learned both the details of the deficiencies reported and that a licensed building inspector hired by the City did the inspection. This was a relatively brief and candid, direct-to-the-point meeting that:

- 1) Laid out what the City requires from us and from the Boy Scouts now and
- 2) Outlined some of the process we can expect.

Thank you, Mayor Malsin!

Specifically, the Boy Scouts and we each need to prepare and submit to the City a detailed list of the actions we intend to take to repair and remediate the building deficiencies listed in the City's inspection report. Problems in our part of the building reported in the inspection report, in addition to the roof, are mainly lead-based paint problems. The submitted list must include estimated schedule and costs based on bids by qualified contractors licensed to work in Culver City. The City will then review the submittal and begin a notification and negotiation process for omissions and inadequacies. We learned that any items on the submittal list that we expected the City to pay for would be rejected.

We will almost certainly be required to meet the A-building code, the City's most stringent. The Boy Scouts will certainly need to meet the A-code. In addition, as a City building, wheelchair ramps, door enlargement and other handicapped access are required. As construction proceeds and access to previously hidden building structure is exposed any further deficiencies, including toxic material remediation (lead, arsenic, asbestos, etc), will have to be properly dealt with. On a more positive note, when asked if we could include an enlargement of the footprint (make our shop bigger), we were told this was open to negotiation, definitely a live possibility.

At the Shop after the meeting with the City, we talk-

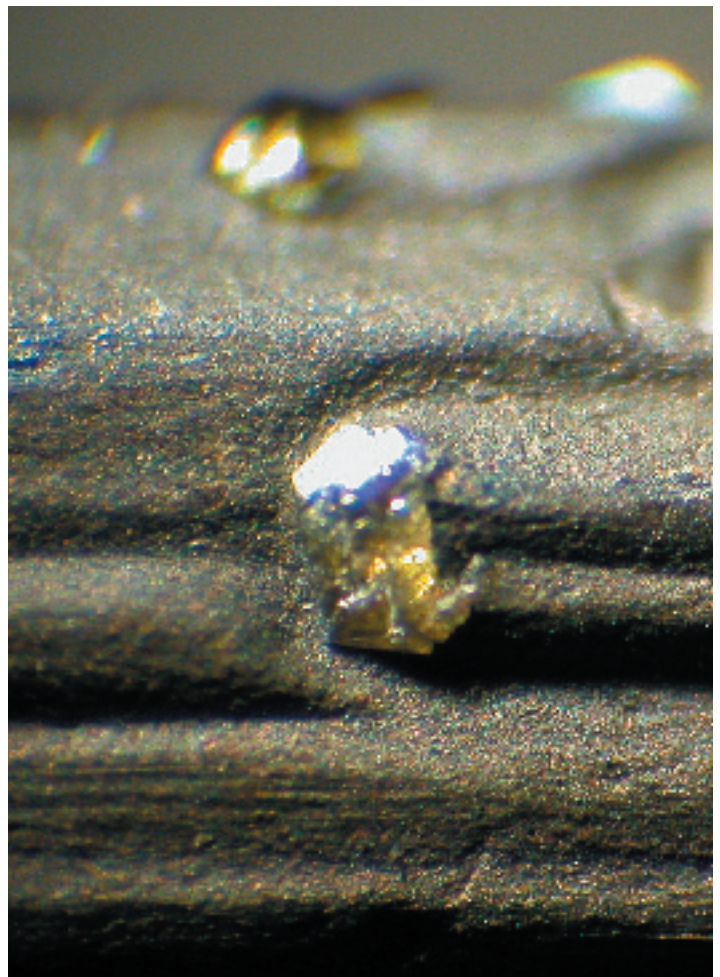
ed with the Boy Scouts and informally discussed our and their options. We reached no final conclusions but agreed that the cost to save the buildings would be high, especially in light of the unknowns about what additional remediation would be needed for new discoveries as construction proceeded. Total building replacement was discussed briefly as was moving to a new location.

As things stand now (June 18, 2009) as I write this, we are beginning the process of getting bids and exploring any other options and actions that could allow CCR&MC to continue to operate a club Lapidary Workshop.

Your suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Bruce Mensinger
Shop Chairman

DIAMOND SAW BLADE EDGE



Photograph by Bruce Mensinger

