

# THE AWARD WINNING Agatizer

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1606 Torrance, Ca. 90505



Affiliated with The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



## Turricula AKA

### Poodle-dog Brush

Turricula parryi, Poodledog Bush is a show stopper when it flowers. This is one of the largest fire following



Poodle-dog Brush After the Station Fire Along Angeles Crest Hwy

wildflowers. If there is a brush fire in your area that has not been seeded with grasses (or other weeds) keep your eye out for this plant. After sleeping for many decades, an ancient threat rises from the ashes! Under the topic of field trip safety, I learned something interesting during my recent biennial Emergency Medical Technician re-certification course provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Many of the L.A. County Sheriff's EMT's are mountain rescue specialists and, among other things, the course updates these EMT's on hazards facing potential rescuers. One of the new hazards is the widespread growth of a plant that threatens the unwary with weeks of pain, irritation and suffering.

The Poodle Dog Bush, or *Turricula parryi*, is endemic to the Californias and is now being found in chaparral from the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley southwards to Baja California. In the last year authorities in areas such as the Angeles National Forest and in Orange County reported hikers' complaints of severe reactions to contact with this colorful plant. Those hikers told of wandering through fields of beautifully colored purple

Flowers.

Those search and rescue members that I spoke with described the plant as having puffy and colorful flowers and leaves reminding them of a poodle dog's trimmed tail. Stimulated by intense heat, the plants are erupting in areas where forest and brush fires have burned away the other vegetation that was once dominant and which kept the poodle dog plant dormant. Often mistaken for Lupine or Phacelia, clusters of lavender shaded flowers top stalks of up to 8 feet long with slender leaves of 1.5" - 4" long. The leaves and stalks have fine hairs. On the tips of these fine hairs is a sticky chemical compound of benzoic acid that produces a most unpleasant reaction in humans. These sticky hair can be deposited on clothes or skin after the slightest contact with the plant. It is believed that breathing the air around the plants can be dangerous to lung tissue, similar to poison oak. These hairs are on the leaves and stalk all year long and the toxic effects are not seasonal.



Skin contact with this plant's needles results in a delayed outbreak of intensely irritating rash, blisters, itching and pain. Search and rescue squad leaders described it to me as being ten times worse than the most severe case of poison oak dermatitis. The effects can last for a month and the current best-treatment products for poison oak - Zanfel and Technu - have little effect. Experts recommend over-the-counter pharmacy products containing hydrocortisone and seeing your doctor for a cortisone injection or other treatment options should blisters develop.

When in the field avoid contact with the plant! Wear gloves, long sleeves and pants. Wash your tools at the end of the day and wash your gloves and your outer clothes separately from other laundry. Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water after contact with the plant or with clothes. I suggest that field trip leaders in California include this plant in their field trip safety briefings on potential site-specific hazards.

**OFFICERS FOR 2012**

President	Gale Fussello	310 639-7284	fussello@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Nancy Pekarek	310 257-8152	pekareks@hotmail.com
Secretaries	Alma Bonilla & Bonnie Filer	310 626-5091	bonilla-boys@att.net
		310 530-5265	filerfamily@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Chris Curtin	310 480-4378	gundodude26@aol.com
Fed Director	Bill Sudduth	310 787-7851	sudduth3@msn.com

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRFOLKS**

Displays	Larry Hoskinson	310 318-2170	lesneff@aol.com
Drawings & Donations	Leslie Neff	310 318-2170	lesneff@aol.com
Editor	Terry Vasseur	310 644-2029	wookman@dslextreme.com
Wally Ford Scholarship Fund	Larry Hoskinson	310 318-2170	lesneff@aol.com
Demonstrators & Guest Cases	Terry Vasseur	310-644-2029	wookman@dslextreme.com
Field Trip	Craig Polliard	310-533-4931	craigpolliard@yahoo.com
Coordinators	Terry Vasseur	310-644-2029	wookman@dslextreme.com
	Chris LeMaster	714-960-9069	zfishh@yahoo.com
	Chris Curtin	310 480-4378	gundodude26@aol.com
Getting-to-know-you	Craig Polliard	310-533-4931	craigpolliard@yahoo.com
Historian	Gale Fussello	310 639-7284	fussello@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality	Jim Erickson	310 640-6199	bmcjim@att.net
Librarian	Beatriz Newns	310-701-2781	
Membership		310 322-2556	
Property	Steve Pekarek	310 257-8152	pekareks@hotmail.com
Publicity	-	-	-
Refreshment Director	-	-	-
2013 Show Chair	Bill Sudduth	310 787-7851	sudduth3@msn.com
Co-Show Chairs	Craig & Kathy Polliard		
Webmaster	Roger Mills	310 377-6226	roger_mills@acm.org

**CLUB EXPERTS**

- Burt Dobratz - Fused Glass
- Larry Hoskinson - Opal Cutting
- Peggy Hill - Lapidary & Beads
- Ken Ouellette - Cuttle Bone Casting & Silver Fabrication
- Chris LeMaster - Tumbling
- Ricky McArthur - Inlay (Intarsia)
- Ken Pauley - Zeolite Minerals
- De Sharp - Sphere Making
- Toy Sato - Suseiki (Stone Appreciation)
- Bill Sudduth - Workshop design & construction, Sphere Making
- Terry Vasseur - Silver Fabrication

**MISSION STATEMENT**

This society was formed to collect and study minerals: to teach lapidary arts; to disseminate knowledge of mineralogical, lapidary work, and related activities; to exhibit specimens for public education; and to exchange information related to the earth sciences.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Meetings are scheduled on the First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Torrance Public Library, 3301, Torrance Blvd.. Visitors and guests are always welcomed at all club events.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Annual dues for a single member is \$15 and \$20 for a family payable by the 1st of the year. An annual 12 month subscription to the Agatizer comes with membership. A subscription to the Agatizer alone is \$20.

**WEBSITE**

palosverdes.com/sblap

**PDF READER LINK**

http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

**AGATIZER CIRCULATION 2011**

Jun 2011, 87 Jan 2012, 87

**Display & Donate and Refreshments**

May 8

**Display & Donate:** Burt Dobratz, Gale Fussello, Doug Soden, Kay Goeden

**Munchies:** Peggy Hill, Kitty Lake

**Drinks:** Lynette Vandever, Pat Nakano

Jun 5

**Display & Donate:** Peggy Hill, Jim Erickson, Bonnie Filer, Kitty Lake

**Munchies:** Ken & Trisha Ouellette, Melba Murillo

**Drinks:** Ricky & Frances McArthur, Heather Conrow

July 3

**Display & Donate:** Ken & Trisha Ouellette, Melba Murilla, Alma & Edwardo Bonilla, Ricky & Frances McArthur

**Munchies:** Craig & Kathy Polliard, Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff

**Drinks:** Ken & Trisha Ouellette, Steve & Nancy Pekarek

Note: If you are scheduled to bring munchies or drinks but are unable to attend the meeting please arrange with another member to fill in and take care of your obligation.

Donate (Definition): to give, esp. to some philanthropic cause. In this case, contribute some article of value, related to the hobby to be raffled off at the end of our monthly meeting.

Politicians are like diapers, they need to be changed often and for the same reason.

— Mark Twain

**The President's Plenum**

Gale Fussello



**CFMS Gold & Gem Show**

Hosted by the Valley Prospectors

July 13 - 15, 2012

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4



Riverside Municipal Auditorium

3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside

Don Thome sez:

*There's so many boxes*

*All filled with rockses*

*How much they all weigh*

*My muscles all say neigh*

*Next time I'm going to join*

*The South Bay Helium Balloon and  
Feather Society*

**From The Editor's Desk**

Terry Vasseur



Thanks go out to Mark Nelson, Editor of the Rockhound Ramblings, (the Pasadena club's newsletter), for our cover story on an unbeknown itch weed.

Once again the call for action has been sent out. *Gather the troops; the BLM is reviewing its vehicular routes for the West Mojave Planning Area. If you have a collecting location within this area and you want to continue to access it, you need to tell the BLM.* My response to this is: yes, we need to show the BLM that there is a considerable constituency of recreational rock & mineral collectors that need access to many traditional collecting areas. And the best way to do that is to show up at BLM meetings and or send the BLM E-mails and letters. That presents the BLM with concrete evidence that they need to recognize we really are a significant component of desert recreation.

The second part I find problematic. That is: *if you have a collecting location within this area and you want to continue to access it, you need to tell the BLM!* This is fine but not very efficient. In a perfect world, someone at the CFMS level would contact the Southern clubs most affected by this access review and ask for inputs by field trip leaders past and present. Again, someone at the CFMS level would then gather the inputs, screen out the duplicity, and enter what is left into an Excel file. Before handing it over to our representative, the CFMS might circulate the list back to the clubs for a final review to pick up any sites we may have left out.

I might argue that even the process I suggested above is inadequate. *I want all collecting areas that are not already consumed by parks, military installations, and other set asides, open and accessible!* There are many, many places I have not been to or even know about yet, sites I may want to go to in the future. How can I list what I am not currently aware of? The best answer I have is to ask for access to all old mines currently marked on BLM maps that have roads or trails going to them. Old, inactive mine dumps are popular sites for mineral collectors. Also, give them a copy of **Gem Trails of California**.

I know many people are cynical of the motives of our government and they may be right but taken on its face, this may be the last opportunity to secure access for the future of collecting in the Mojave Desert. (The link below contains a pdf form for comments to BLM,)

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/cdd/west\\_mojave\\_plan\\_updates.Par.1299.File.dat/Comment%20Sheet.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/cdd/west_mojave_plan_updates.Par.1299.File.dat/Comment%20Sheet.pdf)

-Continued on page 9

**Secretaries' Minutes of the April 3, 2012 General Meeting**

Bonnie Filer & Alma Bonilla



**Secretaries' Minutes of the April 3, 2012 General Meeting**

Carol Pauley filled in to take minutes for Alma and Bonnie at the April meeting. Kathy Polliard typed the April minutes and submitted them to the Agatizer.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Gale

- A debrief meeting was held for the Station Managers prior to tonight's meeting. Notes of the meeting will be given to our 2013 Show Chair, Bill Sudduth.

**Membership**

- Carlos & Ronni Lemmi applied for membership tonight. The Board will meet prior to the next meeting for approval.

**Field Trips**

- Craig mentioned the upcoming rock show on the Steam & Engine Museum grounds in Vista the week-end of April 13 – 15. It is an excellent show!
- Craig mentioned that he has next week off and plans on going on a field trip and will notify members regarding the location, date and time for those available and interested.

**Program Presentation**

- Nancy & Steve Pekarek introduced our speaker, Mark Faull. Mark is a retired California Park Ranger and shared with our members a historical photo slide show of "Cudahy Camp: Flux and Family in a Company Town." Cudahy Camp is in Red Rock State Park. The speaker brought samples of pumacite (seiosmotite is the deposit name given by the Cudahy company).

**Old Business**

- President Gale Fussello thanked Craig Polliard for taking over the position of "Getting to Know You" and Bea Newns for taking on the position of "Refreshment Chair."

**New Business**

- Carlos & Ronni Lemmi applied for membership.
- Gale would like to set up a Committee to find new dining options for our January installation.
- REMINDER – Next meeting is May 8, same time, same location.

**Display & Donate**

- Eugenia brought items she won and purchased at the show. Her winnings included binoculars, bracelet, earrings and a pendant. Her silent auction items included howlite and a "green" rock.
- Bea Newns began collecting a year ago and brought a few of the rocks she collected. She asked for assistance in identifying some of the rocks. She also brought a photo slide show of pictures Alma took at the show this past weekend.

-Continued on page 11

Fussello

Pledge

**February Meeting Minutes Approval**

President Gale Fussello called for a motion to approve the February minutes as printed in the April Agatizer. Al Richards so moved. Ken Pauley seconded.

**March Meeting Minutes Approval**

March minutes have not been posted.

**Secretary's Report**

- Notices for upcoming events are available at the front desk.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Chris Curtin, Treasurer, said that copies of the March 2012 Treasurer's Financial Statement are available on the front desk during the meeting. Not much activity in March.

**Federation Report**

- Bill Sudduth said the Federation Report is in the April Agatizer.

**Hospitality Report**

- 33 members in attendance
- 5 guests: Mark Faull – tonight's speaker, Tom Gray, Carlos & Ronni Lemmi, and Stuart Capewell

**Agatizer Report**

- Terry has several Agatizers available during the meeting for those who would like one.

**Show Chair Report**

- Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff thanked our club members for all their help and support which made the 2012 show another successful event.
- Kay Goeden thanked the membership for their help in setting up the kitchen and for the dessert donations made to the kitchen.

**Federation Director's Report**

Bill Sudduth



Well here it is that time again when we get to travel down the old FEDERATION REPORT lane. I came from class today and on arriving home received my C.F.M.S. newsletter by mail. That started the old brain cells to cooking, which made me think about writing the federation report. I quickly read the newsletter - page 1 - President's

message. Then on to page 2 - All American club report by Dot Beachler. Then on to membership, field trips North & South, A.F.M.S. scholarships, Endowment fund, 2012 Show. This is just a small portion of everything that the C.F.M.S. offers to its membership. If you are interested in learning any of the Lapidary Arts or Jewelry work, classes are available to members. If you would like to take a field trip, they are there all you have to do is show up at the appointed time and place. All of this information is here for the asking, but you have to let someone know that you are interested. Our own group has field trips, for the most part, only about 5 or 6 will show up to go out even for a day trip. I know some of you would rather go for a week at a time. If that's the case, then why don't some of you that want to go for a week at a time put a trip together and invite others to join you. It only takes one person to say something like "lets go to Topaz Mountain for a few days." Now that's a nice trip for a week or 10 days and a good rock hunting area with a good variety of material. I know what some of you are thinking "why isn't he doing it?" Well, my old travel trailer is being occupied right now so its kind of out of the question.

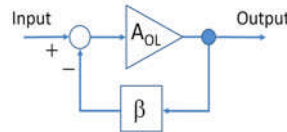
All of this was said to get us all to thinking. We have this great area that we live in, the beach, the mountains, the deserts. We can go to any of these areas in a matter of a few hours at the most. We have all kinds of information available, all we have to do is put it all together and do something with it. Well, I am off my soap box now, guess I will go in and take a cold shower and see if any steam blows out of my ears. Then I will get ready for dinner.

C U all later. Hope you have a good dig.



*The Bulletin Board*

- ✓ NEXT MEETING: Tuesday May 8 in the meeting room at the Torrance Library
- ✓ BOARD MEETING:
- ✓ PROGRAM: El Camino College, geology students will present a PowerPoint presentation on their Spring Field Trip to Utah
- ✓ FIELD TRIPS:
- ✓ SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 5/24/12



**FEEDBACK**

Letters to the Editor

Open loop, no feedback this month.

**May Anniversaries**

Terry & Teresita Vasseur	May 10
Craig & Kathy Polliard	May 14
Ken & Trisha Ouellette	May 20
Al & Betty Richards	May 21

**May Birthdays**

James Rouser	May 02
Frank DeGrey	May 04
Mary Sharp	May 09
Ed Whitefire	May 10
Trisha Quелlette	May 20
Chelsea Filer	May 25
Thalia Whitefire	May 27
Beatriz Newns	May 23
Burt Dobratz	May 30



## ON THE ROCKS

Tips-Ideas-Questions & Answers, on Anything Relating to the Hobby (submissions welcomed)

### Free Standing, Too Big to Carry

When it is not too windy or too hot, late Spring in the Mojave can be ideal for field trips. On Earth Day it was 92° in the shade (of which there was very little). That made this trip acceptable but near the upper limits of



sanity.

North Edwards turned out to be a pleasant surprise. I was expecting to find nothing but a flat, dry, salt pan like most of the desert between Lancaster and Mojave but instead, we found rolling hills in a sea of desert as far as the eye could see. I also expected to see material similar to what is found at nearby Kramer Junction. That also proved wrong. Here, we predominately found jasper. It was mostly uninspiring brownish-mustard but, often free standing and sometimes found in unusually large pieces as shown above.

As I have often seen before at other sites, this collecting area seems confined to one hill. The adjacent hills of black basalt were apparently barren. Something made this particular hill, also consisting of black basalt, different. It seemed to have more decrepit (decomposing) rocks. One interesting clue was graphic granite scattered everywhere. That meant there was a large granitic pegmatite formed here at some time but whether that has anything to do with the jasper deposition, I do not know.

Graphic granite is described as *coarse intergrowth of quartz in alkali feldspar with exsolved quartz typically*

## 2012 SHOW CALENDAR

- ✓ **Searchers Gem & Mineral Society**  
May 5 - 6: ANAHEIM, CA  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30  
Contact: Steve Duncan, (714) 724-7102  
Email: wsd@iteris.com  
Website: www.searchersrocks.org
- ✓ **Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society**  
May 4 - 6: BISHOP, CA  
Tri-County Fairgrounds  
Corner of Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 6pm-9; Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 9:30-3  
Contact: Francee Graham, (760) 876-4319  
Email: franceem@qnet.com
- ✓ **West Coast-Spring Gem & Mineral Show**  
May 11-13, SANTA ANA, CA  
Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport  
2726 S. Grand Ave , Santa Ana, Ca 92705  
(take 55 Fwy for Dyer Rd to S. Grand Ave)  
90 top dealers, Free admissions & Parking  
Wholesale · Retail, Show hours: Fri & Sat 10-6  
Sun 10-5  
www.mezexpos.com



*forming a distinctive repetitive pattern sometimes resembling the old Sumerian cuneiform writing.*

I recognized graphic granite immediately because of a previous encounter where I tried to cut a cabochon from a very distinctive piece. Unfortunately, it crumbled incessantly and I gave up. If however, you can find graphic granite that is stable, it can be cut into stunningly gorgeous cabs.

This trip was probably the last exploratory field trip of Spring 2012. It was also the first trip where I found a cuttable rock too big to carry. We hope to return next Fall.

# The Mineralist



Ken Pauley

The third zeolite in our study is **Ammonioleucite**. There are two new and interesting twists introduced by the zeolite ammonioleucite. First, chemical formulae for zeolites of this type contain multiple cations separated by commas and placed within parentheses in front of the formula. These cations can float separately in sieves or cages in the honeycomb-like aluminosilicate framework structure and give rise to different minerals. Secondly, the X-ray powder diffraction pattern of ammonioleucite is similar to that of **tetragonal leucite**,  $KAlSi_2O_6$ . Hence, Hidemichi Hori\* and his colleagues (1986) concluded that the two minerals were **isostructural** (See Foot Notes.) The chemical model or crystal structure for leucite (chemical model seen below) is probably the same framework as the ammonioleucite crystal structure.

## Ammonioleucite (ə mō' nē ō lōō' sīt)

**Chemical Composition:** Tatarazawa, Fujioka, Japan  $[(NH_4)_{0.68}, K_{0.19}]_{20.87} Al_{0.89} Si_{2.12} O_6$  (based on six oxygen atoms)

\* **Ref:** Hidemichi Hori, Nagashima, K., Yamaa, M., Miyawaki, R., and Marubashi, T. (1986) Ammonioleucite, a new material from Tatarazawa, Fujioka, Japan, **Am. Mineral.** **71**, 1022-1027. (elements for ammonioleucite were found using a X-ray microanalyzer, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), and electron microprobe.)

**Ideal Chemical Formula:**  $(NH_4, K) [AlSi_2O_6]$  **Z=16**; (Z is a crystallography term to be defined later.)

**Founder and Date:** IMA approved in 1984, but not analyzed and named by Hori et al. until 1986.

**Type Locality:** Found in the Tatarazawa quarry, Fujioka, Gumma Prefecture, Japan,. To see the location data link onto [www.mindat.org/min-206.html](http://www.mindat.org/min-206.html).

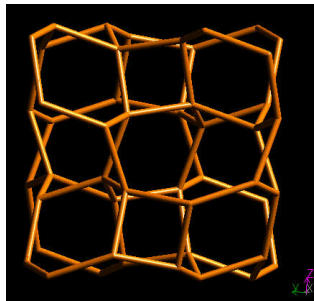
**Named for:** Ammonioleucite was named for “ammonia” in its chemical composition form  $NH_4AlSi_2O_6$  and for its structural relationship to “leucite,”  $KAlSi_2O_6$ .

**Environment:** In veinlets, fractures, and cavities in hydrothermally altered crystalline schist, as powdery pseudomorphous replacements of zeolite analcime crystals.

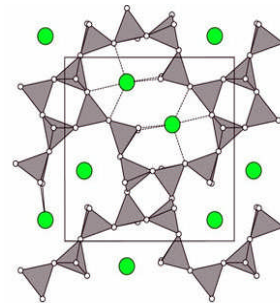


**Zeolite Ammonioleucite Crystal Chemical Model**

from Tatarazawa, Japan. Ammonioleucite (framework type ANA) shown as white surface layers replacing trapezohedral analcime crystals.



**Framework for Ammonioleucite**



**Ammonioleucite**

**Framework Type Code (FTC) = ANA\*** [ $NH_4^+$  replaces  $K^+$  (green) in ANA structure of leucite] [looking along the {1 0 0} crystal axis.]

**Ref.** for structure, see M. Yamada, Miyawaki, R., Nakai, I., Isumi, F., and Nagashima, K., A Rietveld analysis of the crystal structure of ammonioleucite., **Miner. Jour.**, **20** (1988), pp. 105-112.

**Color:** colorless, white; **Luster:** vitreous; **Density:** 2.25-2.29 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>; **Fractures:** subconchoidal; Streaks white; **Hardness:** not determined; **Crystal System:** tetragonal –dipyramidal H-M Symbol (4/m); **Crystal:** Unit cell data; a = 13.214 Å; c = 13.714 Å; **Space group**  $I4_1/a$ ;

**Framework silicon composition of Ammonioleucite,**  $T_{Si}$  is 0.70 \*\*. (See last month’s definition of  $T_{Si}$ .)

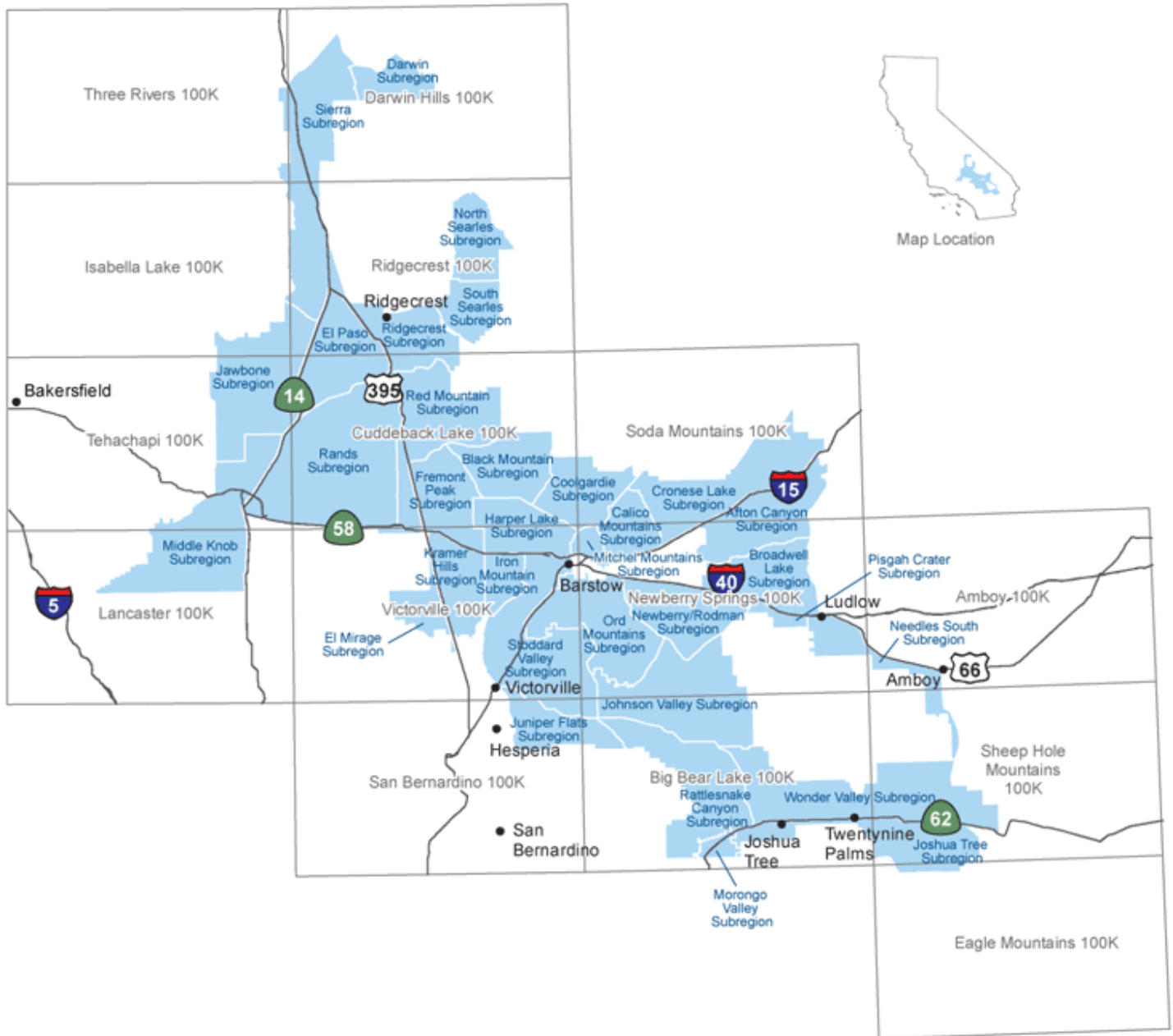
Physical, Optical and other Properties not rendered here may be found at: <http://www.webmaterial.com/data/Ammonioleucite.shtml>. (Other questionable crystallography nomenclature and data will be made clear in future articles.)

### Foot Notes:

- **Ammonium** (more obscurely: **aminium**) **cation** is a positively **charged polyatomic cation** with the **chemical formula**  $NH_4^+$  How one obtains this cation to use is a subject found in any good textbook on inorganic chemistry.
- **Isostructural (i-so-struc-tur-al)** Said of two or more chemical compounds with similar crystal structures (**FTC**), but with little tendency to show **isomorphism** (you can look this one up.)
- \***ANA:** Framework Type Code ANA is named for the zeolite **analcime** (1801), which was the first framework topology named for this subgroup. Other zeolites named using ANA in the subgroup include **hsianghualite** (1958), **leucite** (1791), **pollucite** (1846), **wairakite** (1955, and this month’s zeolite **ammonioleucite** (1984).
- \*\* **Framework Composition  $T_{Si} = 0.70$ :** Recall from last month’s *The Mineralogist*, the symbol  $T_{Si}$  is used to denote the **percentage of Silicon** found in the framework of a zeolite  $T_{Si} = Si / (Si + Al) * 100\%$ .

## BLM WEST MOJAVE PLANNING AREA

Are any of your favorite field trip locations within the perimeter of this map? You may have to walk in from the closest maintained road in the future. Are there any places you aren't aware of but some day might want to visit that is within the boundary of this map? Of course, that question is impossible to answer but it is being asked right now by the BLM West Mojave Planning group.



The Barstow BLM has been tasked by a judge to update their maps, roads & trails within their jurisdiction so that the public can determine what areas are open to travel by all means other than their own legs. The BLM also must clearly mark all special off limit areas they have set aside as sensitive habitat and study areas. The judge gave them something like a two year deadline to complete this enormous task and they are moving on it accordingly.

The BLM's stated charge is to manage: energy, fire prevention, grazing, planning, **recreation**, conservation, wild horses & burros, abandoned mines, lands & realty, wildlife, and more. Kim Campbell, a member of the CFMS American Lands Access Association (ALLA) has been accepted by the BLM's planning committee to represent us. She managed to get their attention that lapidary and mineral clubs need access to collecting areas, and that we are good stewards of the land. Now it is up to us to tell them what roads we need open to get to the collecting sites we want to be able to go to.

**The South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society's  
2012 Academics Program & Requirements Presentations for the  
Cub Scout's Geology Belt Loop**



Wolf Pack 500, San Pedro



The coveted Cub Scout Geology Belt Loop

Members of the South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society are appreciative of the support we receive from the community. In turn, we try to give back to the community in ways we are able to such as the Wally Ford, El Camino College Scholarship fund, Geology presentations at grade schools, and the Cub Scout Geology Belt Loop presentations at our annual show. This year we did three sessions for at least four different scout organizations located in four South Bay cities. As a former scout myself, I salute these young men and wish them well. We hope they will continue to find pleasure in collecting and studying rocks and minerals and maintain a life long interest in Earth Sciences.

Terry Vasseur



Cub Pack 290, Lawndale & 788, Redondo Beach



Pack 860, Hermosa Beach

## El Camino College Participants in South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society Show

– Joe Holliday, Professor, Geology & Oceanography

On Sunday, April 1, 2012, several members of the El Camino College geology program and the Science Club attended the South Bay Mineral and Gem Show sponsored by the South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society (SBLMS).

Twenty geology majors from El Camino College attended the mineral show as volunteers. Several El Camino personnel attended the conference, including Natural Sciences Dean Jean Shankweiler, ECC Foundation Director Katie Gleason, and Counselor Madeleine Carteron. The professors who attended were Joseph Holliday, Lynn Fielding, and Chuck Herzig.

There was a special presentation on stage where the conference organizers (Leslie Neff, Larry Hoskinson, Craig Polliard) presented a check to all the El Camino participants who were present (see photo). Every year the SBLMS donates proceeds from the mineral show to the El Camino College Foundation for the purpose of granting scholarships to students in the earth science field. This annual funding goes to pay for the Wally Ford Scholarships which are given to two or three students every spring.



The South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society presenting the donation check to El Camino College staff and students. Back row: Madeleine Carteron, Jean Shankweiler, Katie Gleason, Chuck Herzig, Lynn Fielding, Joe Holliday, and Leslie Neff. Front row: ECC geology majors Ian Walker, John Burton, Rick Eggers, Allison Prizlow, and Angela Appel.



For the first time, the El Camino College Science Club was invited to have a fundraising booth at the show. They raised \$200 for their big spring break trip to the national parks of Utah and Arizona.

## Mark Faull Returned with Another Red Rock Canyon Story

(April Meeting Guest Speaker)

A short 20 months ago, Mark Faull (retired park ranger, amateur geologist, & historian), gave us an overview of the Red Rock Canyon park. This time he came back to give us a PowerPoint presentation on a particular piece of the park's history, the Old Dutch Cleanser Mine.



Having spent nearly his entire career in Red Rock Canyon gives Mark a unique perspective and a very personal insight when he talks about the families that lived and worked the mine.

It's hard to imagine American kitchens & bathrooms without dishwashing detergents, stain removers, chlorine bleach, or lime scale removers prior to 1923.

But, in 1905 the Cudahay Packing Company registered the "The Old Dutch" trademark. They had some connection with a pumice mine in Kansas that supplied the material to slaughterhouses to clean their floors. In 1923 they opened the mine atop the cliffs above the Garlock Fault near Red Rock Canyon and proceeded to market their product to nearly every home in the country for the next 24 years until it suddenly fell out of favor. Mark suspects the high silica content took a toll on porcelain bathtubs and toilets leaving the door open for newer, less aggressive cleaners.

As with all history stories out of the old West, it's the human toll and struggle that gives us pause. The contrast of stark working and living conditions including long work hours, the dust, the heat, two room living quarters with only two bare incandescent bulbs, and a communal bathroom facility is unimaginable compared to our living conditions today.

Mark is an excellent story teller. The only way he could have made his presentation better, is if he had told the story on a dark night around a roaring campfire.

### Things to Do List

Club cases #6 & #8 need repairs before next years show.

## TIPS FROM A JEWELER'S BENCH



Brad Smith

### GARNET BULLETS

A cool fact about garnets is that they were actually used in ancient Asia and the American Southwest as bullets in guns. The



strong, deep red of the stone was said to cause wounds worse than bullets. Read more about it on the Omnigems Blog - <http://omigems.com/blog/category/gemstones/>

### MOTOR SAFETY - THE LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of half a horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

But the point here is with the smaller powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece so badly that it seemed the bone might be broken. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? I don't think so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it ! Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friends arm. There was no way to get

a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when my friend could grab the gyrating power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even those little motors for granted.

=====

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/  
or  
facebook.com/BenchTips

Continued from page 4 – Secretary's Minutes

### Birthday/Door/Badge Drawing

- Congratulations to Bill Sudduth who won this month's Birthday Drawing
- Congratulations to Larry Hoskinson who won the Badge Prize
- Congratulations to Ricky McArthur who won the Door Prize

### April Prize Drawing Donations

- Terry and Teresita Vasseur donated slabs and iron ore
- Bea Newns donated a bracelet and crystal kit
- Eugenia Dickson donated two leaf fossils
- Rest of the donations were donated by the club

### April Raffle Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Max Curtin – Mahogany Obsidian

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Steve Pekarek – Lapis Egg

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Bea Newns – Silversmithing book by Jim McCreight

- Chris Curtin – Crystal
- Kathy Polliard – Iron Ore
- Gale Fussello - Rhodocrosite
- Mattia Corbo – Amethyst Crystal
- Lynette Vandever – Ocos Geode
- Tom Gray – Zircon
- Kathy Polliard – Slabs
- Tom Gray – Slabs
- Bill Sudduth – Rock bracelet
- Bill Sudduth – Crystal Kit
- Kathy Polliard – Leaf Fossil
- Stuart Capewell – Leaf Fossil

### Meeting Adjournment

President Gale Fussello motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Bill Sudduth so motioned. Kay Goeden seconded. Motion carried.

## What Ya Been Up to Lately?



Finally, I can say I have firmly planted a toe into the Cady Mountains. Tuesday, April 10, a caravan of two vehicles with seven explorers (Craig Polliard, Bill Sudduth, Chris Curtin, Teresita & Terry Vasseur, Stuart

Capewell, and Tom Gray) took a midweek day trip to stretch our legs and do a little collecting in the desert. A secondary purpose was to scout a potential future club field trip. Unfortunately, none of us were veterans of recent, popular outings with Adam Dean where he took dozens of eager collectors to some of his most productive Cady Mountain sites of late. So we were basically on our own.

Tom Gray took us to the far West end of low hills where he had collected once before. He wanted to bring back a sample of large calcitic concretions he had seen there. That area proved to be a prolific producer of scattered jasper with some agate. Chris found a sample of petrified palm root.

My turn, I chose to follow directions that said *go six miles North of Pisgah Crater*. That led us up a power line access road near a microwave relay station. There was no evidence of collecting where we parked but the nearest



Volcanic Plugs a 1 ½ Miles Up a Canyon in The Cady's canyon looked interesting. It was a fabulous hike that proved to be barren of collectables. Tom came away with what looked like a gypsum crystal the size of a Zippo lighter and a massive rock filled with pea sized chalcedony orbs.

Craig's turn. We followed Craig towards Ludlow, South of the Sleeping Beauty Range to a wind swept playa with lots of scattered chips and nodules of jasper & agate. There was also some interesting formations that looked like gypsum evaporates. Chris found some evidence of native American points, possibly manufactured there. The day was done, but we all pledged, just as Arnold Schwarzenegger famously said, "I'll be back!"

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1606  
Torrance, California 90505

