A cactus or spirit quartz is a quartz crystal that is encrusted by a second generation of smaller crystals grown on its prism faces. Another term used is pineapple quartz. Different from candle quartz, the small crystals point away from the prism, and their orientation is not related to the crystallographic orientation of the central crystal. Interestingly, the rhombohedral faces of the first generation crystal's tips usually remain free.

The most famous cactus quartz is amethyst found at a few locations in South Africa, like the specimen to the above from the vicinity of the Boutenhouthoek Farm, N.E. Pretoria. On its left side one can see a cross section of a crystal, with a cut through the first generation hexagonal prism that is surrounded by younger small crystals.

By Amir Chossrow Akhavan. From The Quartz Page.

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In Memoriam

Karl Gibson, long time member of the Delvers and 1987 club president, passed away on June 8th, 2016 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife Valerie. For many years, Karl was the glue that kept the club all together. Many members called him Uncle Karl. For about 15 or 20 years he attended the club’s two week summer field trips. He and Valerie were always a lot of fun. They hosted Memorial Day weekend field trips to their home in Nuevo, where club members could park motor homes next-door and use his workshop, not to mention the good potluck dinners. He would sell about $200 to $250 in drawing tickets for our Show; no one else came close. To say we will miss Uncle Karl would be the understatement of the year. He was a wonderful friend and a loyal member of the Delvers.

Taps from the Gavel – Fred Dexling, President

It is sad that one of our long time members, Karl Gibson, has passed. I have fond memories of him. May he rest in peace.

The summer has arrived with its uncomfortable high temperatures. Please stay cool, drink lots of water, and stay in the shade to prevent sunburn or even sunstroke.

I am glad for all the electric and electronic devices that make life far more comfortable than it was in the past. Only when devices stop functioning we find out how much we depend on them. During the last month my microwave oven was cooking with the door open: had to junk it and buy a new one. The land line phone wouldn’t record messages: bought a new phone. The DSL modem crashed: bought a new one. The computer hard drive crashed and I lost all my data: I brought it to shop that installed a new drive and some background programs. And of course this week the DSL filter quit: took some time to find the problem; I have installed a new filter.

The time for our display at the Cerritos library is coming up fast. Please start thinking of what you can loan, and write a description of each item, to be used later in making the labels.

General Meeting Minutes 06/10/16 – Teresa Taylor, Secretary

Sadly we received news of a club member Karl Gibson passing away: a moment of silence was observed for our dear friend and flowers will be sent.

Nancy made a suggestion that the club participate with another club in a spinning wheel and grab bags at a November 19-20 parking-lot sale: it was decided to review and vote on this at the next meeting.

Dale Harwood brought free Staurolite for everyone from Hondo Canyon, Pilar, Taos County, NM, and some Teallite (a lead tin sulfide, like Cylindrite). I showed a recent find, a black coral bangle bracelet found at a antique store, on highway 395 near Adelanto, for $1.00. We had a silent auction and raised $75.00 from the proceeds. Of special note was a pendant donated by Chuck Pierce, which he fabricated using the broom-straw casting method and set with a small round purple cabochon.

We then enjoyed the pot-luck which was very tasty. 16 members were present. Next month’s program will be a DVD presentation on the fossils of the Green River Formation of Wyoming. Anyone having fish, or other fossils, from this famous locality is encouraged to bring them to the July meeting to share. We hope to see you there!
The Delvers to Display at the Cerritos City Library

We need members to loan items for display. We are being provided with twelve secure display cabinets at the entrance and in library lobby. The library is a heavily visited and spectacular venue and this is an excellent opportunity to publicize our club and share our hobby with the community. Our displays will be organized by topic (rather than individuals having their own display). We need showy specimens of rocks, minerals, fossils, cabachons, and crafted lapidary items, together with a note describing the item. Uniform labels will be made from your notes. Andrew and Dale are in charge of organizing the display.

The cabinets include four 2.5 ft cubes at the entrance (large showy items will be good for these), seven towers, each 1.7 foot square and having two adjustable shelves, and one huge 4x4x6 foot cube (we might use this to display some lapidary equipment). Lighting is provided, but stands and props for specimens will be useful.

Please let Andrew or Dale know what you can loan (September thru October - setup will be the last weekend in August). Items can be brought to the August (or July) meeting, or arrangements can be made to pick up items from you at another time. We do not need many people for setup, but need to make labels and plan the layout beforehand, so need the items, or at least a description, in advance.

July 9th: Multi-club Field Trip, Wrightwood – Led by Don Ogdon (NOC) & Mark Nelson (Pasadena)

This trip is both a collecting and an educational activity. California is highly affected by the movement of our Earth’s tectonic plates. On this field trip we will see dramatic evidence of where the North American and Pacific plates collide with each other. We will visit several locations along the San Andreas Fault. We will have the opportunity to collect Actinolite specimens.

Transportation: This trip is suitable for all types of cars. Due to limited parking at some of the collecting areas, car-pooling and sharing gas expenses is recommended.

Physical Requirements: We will start at an elevation of 860’ in San Dimas and reach 5935’ at Wrightwood. Collecting the mineral specimens of Actinolite, Blue Schist and Dolomite require walking over uneven stream bottoms. There will be toilet facilities at Lost Lake (pit toilet) and at our stop at the Grizzly Café in Wrightwood.

Bring: Water, lunch, camera, layered clothing, hat, sunblock and a collecting bag or bucket. Sandwiches may also be purchased at the Grizzly Café.

RSVP: With the fire activity this summer wilderness closures are a possibility. Confirm you are coming and give us a cell or home phone number to call in case there is a schedule change!!

Contact Mark Nelson at pasadenalapidary@aol.com or 909-996-1784.

Schedule:

7:30am Meet in the parking lot of Lowes Hardware next to the McDonald’s at 633 W. Bonita Ave, San Dimas, CA 91773. Here you will sign a liability waiver and have an opportunity to get food or beverages from McDonald’s.

8:00 am Depart for San Andreas Fault sites along Old Route 66 in the Cajon Pass.

9:00 am Visit Lost Lake, a seismic fault sag pond. Pit toilet available.

10:00 am Collecting Actinolite in areas east of Wrightwood along Lone Pine Canyon Road. Time permitting; we will stop at an old Dolomite mine.

12:00 pm Stop at Grizzly Café 1455 State Highway 2 in Wrightwood. Restroom and to-go sandwiches are available here.

1:00 pm Arrive at Highway 2 Actinolite collecting area for lunch and collecting.

3:00 pm Depart for our return drive to San Dimas or home.

4:00pm Back at meeting place in San Dimas.

July 29-31: AFMS/NFMS Show, Treasures of the Northwest, at Albany, Oregon, hosted by the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society. Delvers member Chuck Pierce will be attending and competing at this show!

August 5, 6 & 7: NIPOMO, CA, Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, Olympic Hall Cafeteria and Parking Lot#525

Faceting insights from Fred Dexling

I modified the Brilliant cut, decreasing the depth of the pavilion and the crown so that more light is reflected making the gem lighter in color.

Is it Hard or Tough?

The terms “hardness” and “toughness” are sometimes confused when comparing qualities of gemstones, and there is a great deal of difference. Diamond is by far and away the hardest, for it will scratch, cut, or polish any other stone.

But for toughness (resistance to chipping and breaking), jade has it beat by a country mile. A diamond will easily cut and scratch jade, but a jade hammer can crush diamond to powder. The cross-matted structure of jade makes it almost impossible to break. Never fear if you accidentally drop a solid jade cabochon on cement. If it breaks, better check it, it’s probably not jade. The Chinese used jade as an anvil just as we use steel; sometimes the same anvil was used for several generations. Jade, used for axes and hammer-like tools centuries ago, was a practical, useful, and highly valued material.

From Mineral Mite, 6/00; via The Conglomerate 10/15, via The Backbender’s Gazette 1/16, via WGMS 2016-04
Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand - by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair (March 2016 AFMS bulletin)

Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools -- your hands.

There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of the folks who does not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and then going on about your day. The hand behind ones back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important, give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset -- hands.

Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of Gray’s Anatomy I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm and fingers: counting the bones of the right and left hands that’s 60 bones of the body’s 200 or so bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body’s total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care, they deserve great care.

Soon I will transition from winter’s snow shoeing enjoyments to Spring’s bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition I will move from using certain muscle/bone groups to other muscle/bone groups. During that transition I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition I will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that I’m not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken.

We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I’m using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl – that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand finger position frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity and I’m sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act.

Next, for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty – and I’m not talking about the resultant air turning a blueish color. Hands do not have an easy life!

What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are (a ta-da moment) hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike.

There are also numerous chisel holding devices available. There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands. We have available to us dirt, and flat rocks, and really great holding devices that can support/hold a rock so that it is not held in ones hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly -- so if in doubt about any program or device please consider consulting with a professional. Oh and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, stay safe.
Hauser Geode Beds M.O.U Signed

In the afternoon secession of the DAC, during the BLM Field Office Reports, the El Centro BLM Office presented the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) for the Hauser Geode Beds, which the BLM, CFMS and ALAA have been working on the revisions for the last two years, for the formal signature ceremony. Signing the MOU for the BLM was Carrie Simmons, John Martin, CFMS President and Shirley Leeson for ALAA. Rockhounds now have a current MOU between BLM, CFMS, ALAA and the Recreational Rockhound to continue collecting Rocks and Geodes in and around the Hauser Geode Beds of California for years to come and for future generations to enjoy.

The weekend meeting proved to be a positive experience for both the BLM and the Rockhounding Public. We must keep the positive momentum as we move forward with the creation of the Monument Management Plans to assure that Recreational Rockhounding is included in the plan. This effort may take several years to complete and we must not let down our guard or we may still lose our collecting rights on our public lands. We must keep close contact with the land managers and make our wishes and concerns known through the planning process.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about Public Land Access do not hesitate to make contact and the PLAC Committee will attempt to provide an adequate answer.

Recreational Rockhounding in the Mojave Trail National Monument (MTNM) CA
By Ruth Hidalgo

Rockhounds united Friday 5/20/16 to meet and greet the BLM/Desert Advisory Council (DAC) at Lavic. The BLM had actually included a stop to Lavic to discuss Recreational Rockhounding in the New Mojave Trails National Monument on their agenda for the DAC field tour. That, in and of itself, is a big deal and we responded in a big way. The BLM requested Kim Campbell Erb, a dedicated Rockhound who had served on the DAC, to speak about our hobby to other DAC and BLM attendees at a popular collecting site at Lavic. Thank you Kim for doing so.

Many Rockhounds did the entire day tour with the DAC and BLM while others waited for them to arrive at the Lavic meeting spot with signs, photos, samples of material, flags and much, much enthusiasm. According to the BLM, over 40 Rockhounds attended. Members from many of the Southern California Clubs were in attendance, as well as, some that traveled a long way from Northern CA. Thank you to everyone that helped spread the word and/or attended.

For those of you that do not know, The Desert Advisory Council (DAC) is a group of individuals that represent various public interests and make suggestions to the BLM. Their time is not compensated, they are volunteers. They have quarterly two day meetings with the BLM Field office and District Office managers, which the public is welcome to attend. See http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/rac/dac.html for everything DAC.

I attended my first DAC meeting in March with two purposes:
1. To get it on the record that collecting rocks was still allowed in the MTNM until a management plan was made. Not only did we get it on the record that day, but thanks to the insistence and efforts of some Rockhounds with much more experience than I doing this sort of thing, we now have written directive from the District Field Managers office. See it here: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/nlcs/Mojave_Trail_s/recreation.html
2. To see if there was any chance of getting Rockhounding allowed in the Management Plan for the MTNM. Surprisingly, they did NOT laugh. They said it might be possible, IF we participate in the Management Plan process.

Katrina Symons, the Field Manager for the Barstow Field office, among other things, suggested we get a letter from Senator Feinstein’s office in support, since her bill included Recreational Rockhounding as a continued allowed use. We now have that letter. We have Randy Banis to thank for that. Randy has served on the DAC for many years and has been a great resource for Rockhounds when it comes to access issues in the past. He reached out to his contacts at Senator Feinstein’s office and got us a letter we can use during the Management Plan process. So a big THANK YOU to you, Randy Banis.

As to the other things, right now, they need input on the sites at which you collect out there. All the information you need to submit a place on the ALAA website. John Martin has put all the trail maps for the Cadys up for your convenience. You can also email the BLM directly with your honey spots. Send them to Christoper Dalu @ cdalu@blm.gov or Katrina Symons at ksymons@blm.gov. There are no promises or guarantees we can keep all our favorite spots open. The BLM is tasked with protecting the resources for which the monument was made, including artifacts and fossils. Protecting those and allowing rock collecting is delicate balance. However, it is a big monument with room for both and they are willing to try.

There will be many more opportunities to take part in making the MTNM the first National Monument in California, if not the United States, where you can pick up a rock and take it home. This just may happen. Don’t miss out. Keep an eye on the ALAA website and participate.

More from Ruth by way of Adam Dean....

Well Rockhounds, we spoke up and they are listening!! Not only is the BLM willing to work with us to get Rockhounding allowed in the Management Plan for the new Mojave Trails National Monument, they are giving amateur fossil collecting rules a good look. Check this out from a email from the Needles BLM office:

"...they are in the process of trying to modify the PRPA regulations as they apply to BLM National Monuments to reflect the intent of BLM’s collecting policies, which is to say they recognize traditional casual collection of insignificant terrestrial and marine non-vertebrate fossils (trilobites). These activities essentially engage and educate the public about paleontology, which in the long run should serve to better protect those fossils that are considered significant and important"

Wow- that is HUGE!!! The BLM is willing to work with us, but the only way they can do that, is if we tell them at what spots we want to be able to continue to collect.

The BLM has a job to do, protect the resources for which the monument was created, while letting us collect. Normally, they just preclude anyone from picking up a rock in an area with protected fossils or cultural resources, but this is a huge monument with plenty of room for both, and they are willing to map it all out and try to create a balanced use. All you have to do, is send them the places you would like to be able to continue to Rockhound or collect fossils.

They are willing to do all the mapping from any info that is given to them. You can send them the locations in section township range, GPS, PDF map files or maps from other apps or old paper maps from magazines or books.

While there are no promises or guarantees, and we will likely lose some spots, our option is for this Monument to end up like all the others, with NO rock collecting at all. Let’s work with the BLM to make this the first National Monument in CA, perhaps the U.S., to allow rock collecting.

Please send whatever location information you have on places where you collect rocks or fossils in the New Mojave Trails National Monument to Christopher Dalu cdalu@blm.gov at the Needles BLM Field Ofc. The Needles office is the lead on the Management Plan, but Katrina Symons, Field Manager for the BLM office is available to answer any ?'s or concerns as well. You can reach her at ksymons@blm.gov.

Let’s make this happen people. Future generation’s ability to collect rocks in the Mojave Trails National Monument depends on you.
The Delvers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting education in the earth sciences, including the study of minerals, gems and fossils and the lapidary arts. Founded in 1948, the club was incorporated in 1954 in the City of Downey, CA. Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings. The Delvers support a scholarship for geology students at Cerritos College. 
https://delversgemclub.wordpress.com/  
And we also can be found at facebook

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