CONTENT GUIDE FOR EOSC118

The 49er Pocket: Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County, California

Mauthner, M. (2008). *Rocks & Minerals*, Vol. 83, No. 4, pp 292-297

This 6-page document reviews some exciting recent discoveries in the famous Pala Pegmatite District of California, which is well known for producing some superb mineral specimens. See for example, the Tourmaline Queen Mine. The easy access and extreme fractionation of pegmatite rocks in this district made them important study sites for developing theories about the formation of pegmatites, especially through the work of scientists R. Jahns and C. Burnham in the middle of the 20th century.

This article chronicles the development up to the 2007, discovery, and details the mineralogy of the pockets. Use the discussion board on Connect to pose questions, since questions that you have are probably being thought by another one of your fellow students.

Use the following questions to help you through the article:

1. Which County does the Pala District fall within? San Diego County
2. When was the area originally staked with mineral claims? 1950s - Patent on Claims
3. How many years did the Oceanview team blast through barren rock before finding mediocre pockets? Great pockets?
   Mediocre - 2 years; Great pockets - 2001-2007 (from med. pockets - 3yrs+)
4. What main collector mineral species have been recovered from the 49er pocket? balls of clay - beryl, quartz, albite, microline
5. What colour are most of the tourmaline group specimens? - black; black core with dark purp outerzone
6. What sizes do the beryl, microcline, and quartz crystals reach?

   All of the above - 30+ cm