The Sierra Pelonagram

April 2012

... Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc. ...

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1959 with the objective to sponsor activities and promote interest and education in: mineralogy, lapidary, geology, paleontology and related subjects.

ENDOWMENT FUND-CFMS
By CJ Quitariano,Chair

Hi Everyone!

This year is going to be an active one for the Endowment Fund! We are hoping that with your help we will be able to raise more money this year than any other year before!

You heard about the 1 million pennies that Ray Meisenheimer raised a few years back? Well, this year I would like to kick it up a notch by raising half a million nickels! That would be $25,000 for the CFMS Endowment Fund!

So, beginning with your very next meeting, place a collection jar or box, or whatever, somewhere prominent (I find the goodies table to be a great place, everyone goes there). Then let your members know to put all of their nickels in the jar. It doesn't have to be just nickels; any denomination will do! The goal here is to collect $25,000, an amount equivalent to 500,000 in nickels!

You can send your checks the usual way, but just make a note that this is for the nickel drive on your check or letter. It might seem like a lot, but with over 100 CFMS clubs and societies, that would only equal about $250 per club! That's not too much now, is it? Piece of cake!

So let's see who can raise the most nickels, maybe we'll make a contest out of it with the winner having bragging rights?

Maybe, something more… hmmmm?

April Birthdays
Happy Birthday to all of you spring babies!

Dave D'Agostino April 3
Sarita Hyde, April 9
Shep Koss, April 14
Greg Langewisch, April 24
Suzie Rizzo, April 4
Ron Strathmann, April 11

Officers:

President – Ron Lawrence
Vice-President – Bill Webber
Secretary: Heidi Webber
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Claim - Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann
Facebook--Greg Langewisch
Field Trips – Greg Langewisch
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie
Membership – Janelle Williams
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Open
Storage - Vlad Litt
Sunshine - Brigitte Mazourek
Website – Greg Mazourek

The Sierra Pelona Rock Club, is a member of the California and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (CFMS/AFMS). The general club meetings (Open to the public) are at 7:30 PM, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at:

The Clubhouse of the Greenbrier Mobile Estates EAST
21301 Soledad Canyon Rd
Canyon Country, CA 91351

Contact the Club or the Sierra Pelonagram Editor at:
Sierra Pelona Rock Club
P.O. Box 221256
Newhall, Ca. 91322
Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net
Visit the SPRC website http://www.sierrapelona.com/

President's Message

It seems weird to miss a Business Meeting and it seems weird to write a President's message without the information that was discussed at the meeting. Bonnie and I left the same day as the meeting for a little trip and will be back the day of the General Meeting.

We do have some important events coming up so check the minutes for the Business Meeting in this newsletter and watch for emails from our Field Trip chair and others but be sure to save April 28 and 29 for an important fund raiser for the club.

Every year we have a booth at the Antelope Valley club show and some years we do great and some years we only do fair but the Antelope Valley club is advertising the heck out of this show so it should be a good year.

We always have a good turn out so that gives us all the opportunity to walk around and see the show and to visit with our fellow club members. The plans for the set up, take down and what hours we will be needing help should be in this newsletter or an email to follow.

Greg L. has put on some great field trips lately. It's as if he has been in the club for years and I have to remember that he is a relatively new member. We have had a number of new members ready to dig in and help the club grow. I feel safe in saying that when we get back, at the General Meeting, the club will have a couple of new members ready to get involved in the club.

I think most of the business that has taking up so much time at the General Meeting is resolved and we can get back to normal updates and more time for the programs. Thank you all for putting up with this by-laws business, I feel that even though there will be a few more changes, they will be confined to once a year. We have used the by-laws as a guide for the operation of the club and have not operated the club by every item in them. As I've asked before, if you wish to review the by-laws and you read something that would be a good idea to implement in our club or know of something in some other club that may work in our club, let me know.

If you haven't already, get on Face book and "like" our clubs page. A lot of information and pictures are posted and it's a good way to keep up to date on club info.

Shep Says: "This has been a very good, very large indoor/outdoor show in the past and promises to be one again."

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club 38th Show,
"Pageant of a Thousand Gems"

FREE admission and parking.

Fun for all ages with exhibits and sales of gems, jewelry, rocks, minerals and fossils.

Special youth activities. Lapidary & Jewelry making demonstrations.

Silent auction, door prizes, plant sale and snack bar. April 21st, 22nd - Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park
190 Reino Rd. Newbury Park CA
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-5
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: http://www.cgamc.org

Business Meeting
Greenbriar Estates
April 3, 2012

Bill Webber, Vice President, standing in for Ron Lawrence, called the meeting to order at 7pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Mike Serino, Ron and Akiko Strathmann, Greg Mazourek, Greg Langewisch, Vlad Litt and Shep Koss. A quorum was met.

It was decided to have a display table at Placerita Canyon Nature Center's Open House on May 12 from 10 until 3. This is local and members are urged to come help man the station.

The Lancaster Show will be held April 28 and 29. This is a big fundraiser for the club and members are needed to help out Antelope Gem & Mineral Society, Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9 - 5 daily

Storage Chair: Vlad said that Bob Caudill brought 7 buckets of various onyx and obsidian to the storage shed.

Field Trip Chair: Greg L. said that the April club trip will be to the Diablo Onyx claim. Many members haven't been to our newest claim yet. Meet at Mammoth at 7am, and more information will follow.

Program Chair: Shep said the April General Meeting will be on metal detectors by DJ and Janelle. The May 15 meeting will feature Dick Flaharty with a projector presentation on collecting in the SE corner of Oregon. We need to supply a screen and table.

Heidi reiterated the need for the various chairpersons to submit their procedure for the manual. Only 4 procedures have been submitted for inclusion at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Webber
Secretary, SPRC

This is a great opportunity to join with other clubs and visit Himalaya Tourmaline Mine. Thanks for inviting our members.

The Pasadena, Monrovia, Whittier and North Orange County lapidary and mineral clubs have arranged discount reservations with the Himalaya Tourmaline Mine near Lake Henshaw, east of Pala, CA. Those who have attended in the past have had a good time digging and sifting for tourmalines and other interesting minerals from their mine tailings.

When: Saturday, April 28th 10am to 3pm.

Where: They are located at 26439 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, CA at the back side of LAKE HENSHAW RESORT. For map and written directions see this Internet site: http://highdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/himalaya_mine_dig.html
(do NOT "map quest" the Himalaya Mine).

Space is limited! If you would like to attend, I need to have your name on the list to present to the mine operator. The special rate will be between $50 and $65 for adults (depending on the number attending), and children 12 and under are free. You are welcome to bring friends and family, whether they are members of a rock club or not.

Please call or email me to get on the list!
Mark Nelson
(909) 592-1322
mnelsonair@aol.com

This is a CFMS Trip, the first one in many months according to Shep

WHEN: May26 Saturday at 9:00 AM
WHERE: Lavic Siding Jasper
MEET: South Side of I-40 Fwy at Hector Rd Off ramp, 35 miles east of I-15 and I-40 Intersection. Or 25 miles West of Ludlow for orientation and sign in.
WHAT TO BRING: collecting bags/buckets, rock hammer, spray bottles.

This is the heart of the Mojave and the weather can be unpredictable, this time of year so dress accordingly. We will be collecting the world famous Lavic jasper which can come in a multitude of colors and can be brecciate, layered or solid with veins of white, black or blue agate.

The jasper has been found in reds, blacks, yellows, gold's, greens, purples, or any combination and range from tumble sized to football sized. Most found as float. This site covers a vast area between the Pisgah Crater lava fields, the railroad tracks and the dry lake. We will explore various spots here.

From the meeting spot we will caravan west to a safe crossing over the tracks then make a number of stops.

Bring lunch. This widespread field offers no shade. Gas and food available in Ludlow.

Waiver of liability will be signed at the meeting spot. High clearance 4X4 trucks and SUVs highly recommended as we will be driving in a sandy wash... Other materials at this site may include agates and jaspers with sections of multi-shaded pink opal.

Nearby is Pisgah Crater, a young volcano with an extensive lava field.

For stopovers this general area also offers the southern Cady's for a wide variety of material, a nearby obsidian field, Dish Hill for peridot, trilobites and the Hector Hills for chalcedony, opal & agate. Bring your rock collecting guides.

Stayovers may camp at a number of undeveloped sites or at the hotel in Ludlow. Treat the desert with respect - tread lightly and pack it in / pack it out.

For more info contact:
CFMS South Co-chairs:
Adam Dean: theagatehunter@verizon.net (909) 489-4899
Robert Sankovich rmsorca@adelphia.net 805-494-7734

Diamond

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called *color-treated diamonds*. When purchasing a fancy-color diamond, the shopper should ask if any enhancements or treatments were used to improve its color and/or clarity.

March Field Trip Report

Greg Langewisch

With dark clouds looming we set out early Sunday morning. When we arrived we were 18 strong and ready to collect. The sky was blue and the temperature moderate. While others endured the rain and cold in Santa Clarita we enjoyed perfect weather out in the desert.

The field siding location offered a nice variety of agates and jasper. We spent time on both sides of the freeway and found a lot of collectible materials of various colors. These were easy locations to collect at. No intense hiking or 4x4 vehicles necessary. Just park, get out of your vehicle and before you know it, you're picking up some cool stuff.

After collecting we went to Peggy Sues in Calico for lunch. I believe we had 16 of us who made it for lunch. The menu was diverse, the food delicious and the service was excellent. I doubt that lunch could have turned out better than it did. Good food, ambiance and great company!

After lunch, most of the group decided to head home. Some of us went on to Calico to check out the town. For some reason, Calico was a true Ghost Town on that day. I doubt there were 100 people there by the time we got there.

We took the tour of "Ben Dovers" cabin, where we heard the tale of Ben the miner who, in a tragic accident lost both his legs below the knee. Not the type to be discouraged, Ben got around by constructing wooden legs. Unfortunately, one of his legs was a few inches shorter than the other. So, he had to build his house on a hill with everything slanted at a steep angle to accommodate his uneven legs. There were many oddities about the home that I won't get into now.

The guide noticed our club shirts and once the tour was over, showed us some of the local rocks. He also tipped us off that there were tons of tiny geodes at the base of the hills surrounding Calico. So, we went off looking for whatever we could find.

In the end, everyone went home to the cold and the rain with plenty of material and some great memories of a wonderful day spent in the desert with cool rocks and good friends. Thanks to everyone who came and made this trip so special.

CFMS Shows

Go to CFMSinc.org for details

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

April 14 - 15: MARIPOSA, CA
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5005 Fairgrounds Road
(Hwy 49, 1.8 miles South of Mariposa)
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4

April 20 - 22: SAN JOSE, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road
Hours: Fri 9 – 5; Sat & Sun 10 – 5

April 20 - 22: INDIO, CA
Shadow Mountain Gem & Mineral Society
Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center
46500 Van Buren Street
Hours: 9 - 5 daily

April 21 - 22: THOUSAND OAKS, CA
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily

April 28 - 29: LANCASTER, CA
Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9 - 5 daily

April 28 - 29: SANTA CRUZ, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
307 Church St (corner Church & Center)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
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May 4 - 6: BISHOP, CA
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Tri-County Fairgrounds
Corner of Sierra Street & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri. 6pm-9; Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 9:30-3

May 5 - 6: ANAHEIM, CA
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30

Gold
A brief history of prospecting, mining and production

Republished from a USGS general interest publication by Harold Kirkemo, William L. Newman, and Roger P. Ashley

Formation of Primary Gold Deposits - Lode Gold

Gold is relatively scarce in the earth, but it occurs in many different kinds of rocks and in many different geological environments. Though scarce, gold is concentrated by geologic processes to form commercial deposits of two principal types: lode (primary) deposits and placer (secondary) deposits.

Lode deposits are the targets for the "hardrock" prospector seeking gold at the site of its deposition from mineralizing solutions. Geologists have proposed various hypotheses to explain the source of solutions from which mineral constituents are precipitated in lode deposits.

One widely accepted hypothesis proposes that many gold deposits, especially those found in volcanic and sedimentary rocks, formed from circulating ground waters driven by heat from bodies of magma (molten rock) intruded into the Earth's crust within about 2 to 5 miles of the surface. Active geothermal systems, which are exploited in parts of the United States for natural hot water and steam, provide a modern analog for these gold-depositing systems. Most of the water in geothermal systems originates as rainfall, which moves downward through fractures and permeable beds in cooler parts of the crust and is drawn laterally into areas heated by magma, where it is driven upward through fractures. As the water is heated, it dissolves metals from the surrounding rocks. When the heated waters reach cooler rocks at shallower depths, metallic minerals precipitate to form veins or blanket-like ore bodies.

Another hypothesis suggests that gold-bearing solutions may be expelled from magma as it cools, precipitating ore materials as they move into cooler surrounding rocks. This hypothesis is applied particularly to gold deposits located in or near masses of granitic rock, which represent solidified magma.

A third hypothesis is applied mainly to gold-bearing veins in metamorphic rocks that occur in mountain belts at continental margins. In the mountain-building process, sedimentary and volcanic rocks may be deeply buried or thrust under the edge of the continent, where they are subjected to high temperatures and pressures resulting in chemical reactions that change the rocks to new mineral assemblages (metamorphism). This hypothesis suggests that water is expelled from the rocks and migrates upwards, precipitating ore materials as pressures and temperatures decrease. The ore metals are thought to originate from the rocks undergoing active metamorphism.

Concentration of Gold in Placer Deposits

Placer deposits represent concentrations of gold derived from lode deposits by erosion, disintegration or decomposition of the enclosing rock, and subsequent concentration by gravity. Gold is extremely resistant to weathering and, when freed from enclosing rocks, is carried downstream as metallic particles consisting of "dust," flakes, grains, or nuggets. Gold particles in stream deposits are often concentrated on or near bedrock, because they move downward during high-water periods when the entire bed load of sand, gravel, and boulders is agitated and is moving downstream. Fine gold particles collect in depressions or in pockets in sand and gravel bars where the stream current slackens. Concentrations of gold in gravel are called "pay streaks."

Prospecting for Placer Deposits

In gold-bearing country, prospectors look for gold where coarse sands and gravel have accumulated and where "black sands" have concentrated and settled with the gold. Magnetite is the most common mineral in black sands, but other heavy minerals such as cassiterite, monazite, ilmenite, chromite, platinum-group metals, and some gem stones may be present.

Placer deposits have formed in the same manner throughout the Earth's history. The processes of weathering and erosion create surface placer deposits that may be buried under rock debris. Although these "fossil" placers are subsequently cemented into hard rocks, the shape and characteristics of old river channels are still recognizable.

Fortitude Mine in Nevada produced about 2 million ounces of gold from a lode deposit between 1984 and 1993. USGS image.

Hydraulic placer mining at Lost Chicken Hill Mine, near Chicken, Alaska. The firehose blasts the sediment outcrop, washing away sand, clay, gravel and gold particles. The material is then processed to remove the gold. USGS image.

Early Gold Finds and Production

Gold was produced in the southern Appalachian region as early as 1792 and perhaps as early as 1775 in southern California. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in California sparked the gold rush of 1849-50, and hundreds of mining camps sprang to life as new deposits were discovered. Gold production increased rapidly. Deposits in the Mother Lode and Grass Valley districts in California and the Comstock Lode in Nevada were discovered during the 1860's, and the Cripple Creek deposits in Colorado began to produce gold in 1892. By 1905 the Tonopah and Goldfield deposits in Nevada and the Alaskan placer deposits had been discovered, and United States gold production for the first time exceeded 4 million troy ounces a year--a level maintained until 1917. During World War I and for some years thereafter, the annual production declined to about 2 million ounces. When the price of gold was raised from $20.67 to $35 an ounce in 1934, production increased rapidly and again exceeded the 4-million-ounce level in 1937. Shortly after the start of World War II, gold mines were closed by the War Production Board and not permitted to reopen until 1945.

From the end of World War II through 1983, domestic mine production of gold did not exceed 2 million ounces annually. Since 1985, annual production has risen by 1 million to 1.5 million ounces every year. By the end of 1989, the cumulative output from deposits in the United States since 1792 reached 363 million ounces.

Disseminated Deposits and By-Product Gold

In the past two decades, low-grade disseminated gold deposits have become increasingly important. More than 75 such deposits have been found in the Western States, mostly in Nevada. The first major producer of this type was the Carlin deposit, which was discovered in 1962 and started production in 1965. Since then many more deposits have been discovered in the vicinity of Carlin, and the Carlin area now comprises a major mining district with seven operating open pits producing more than 1,500,000 troy ounces of gold per year.

About 15 percent of the gold produced in the United States has come from mining other metallic ores. Where base metals- -such as copper, lead, and zinc--are deposited, either in veins or as scattered mineral grains, minor amounts of gold are commonly deposited with them. Deposits of this type are mined for the predominant metals, but the gold is also recovered as a byproduct during processing of the ore. Most byproduct gold has come from porphyry deposits, which are so large that even though they contain only a small amount of gold per ton of ore, so much rock is mined that a substantial amount of gold is recovered. The largest single source of byproduct gold in the United States is the porphyry deposit at Bingham Canyon, Utah, which has produced about 18 million troy ounces of gold since 1906.

Portable gold sluice. Miners place the sluice in the stream and dump sediments in the upstream side. The current transports the sediments through the sluice and the heavy gold particles become lodged in the sluice. iStockPhoto image © LeeAnn Townsend.

Role of a Geologist in Gold Prospecting

Geologists examine all factors controlling the origin and emplacement of mineral deposits, including those containing gold. Igneous and metamorphic rocks are studied in the field and in the laboratory to gain an understanding of how they came to their present location, how they crystallized to solid rock, and how mineral-bearing solutions formed within them. Studies of rock structures, such as folds, faults, fractures, and joints, and of the effects of heat and pressure on rocks suggest why and where fractures occurred and where veins might be found. Studies of weathering processes and transportation of rock debris by water enable geologists to predict the most likely places for placer deposits to form. The occurrence of gold is not capricious; its presence in various rocks and its occurrence under differing environmental conditions follow natural laws. As geologists increase their knowledge of the mineralizing processes, they improve their ability to find gold.

General Meeting
March 20, 2012
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order by Ron Lawrence at 7:40pm.

Janelle announced that 24 members had signed the book with 3 guests also attending. It was determined that 16 yes votes would be needed to pass the proposed bylaw change to be voted on that evening.

The proposed bylaw change was discussed and voted on by a show of hands. The proposal was passed with 22 votes yes. The newly revised bylaw reads:

The bylaws shall only be amended once a year. Amendments shall only be made through a committee. The president shall appoint at least three active members to the committee, who in turn shall solicit and consider all inputs from the general membership. The committee shall report their recommendation for amendments at a general meeting. These bylaws may be amended at a general meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present, provided a reading of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous general meeting and a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member household or a soft copy sent via e-mail at least 10 days before the meeting designated for the vote. The committee shall conduct the voting.

Greg L. discussed the upcoming field trip to the Calico area at Field Road and then to Calico Ghost Town for those who wish to go. The trip is scheduled for March 25, meeting at Mammoth Lane at 7am as usual. Jasper and agate is at the collecting sites. April is tentatively scheduled for gold panning in Azusa and in May a trip to Wiley's Well is planned. More information will be emailed to membership as the date approaches.

The Lancaster Show is April 28 and 29. We will need help with the booth. This is a nice money-maker for the club. It is located at Antelope Gem & Mineral Society Lancaster High School 44701 - 32nd Street West Hours: 9 - 5 daily. Please help to support your club.

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House is on May 12 from 10-3. We will have a table and this also puts a couple hundred into the club's coffers. Again, we can use help. It is local so even if a bunch of you show up you can enjoy the day checking out the various activities.

Bob Caudill said that he has a lot of rocks from Dorothy's that need to be moved to the shed.

Bruce Velie may take over the Publicity Chair position. He will let us know.

Heidi is soliciting input for the Procedure Manual. Please contact her with your thoughts on what should be included. If you want to take a more active role in developing the manual, please contact her. The Board would like to see it finished by the June meeting if at all possible.

Ron reminded everyone that the Business Meeting will now be held at the same location as the General Meeting—the clubhouse at Greenbriar estates. The meeting time is now 7pm, still the first Tuesday of the month.

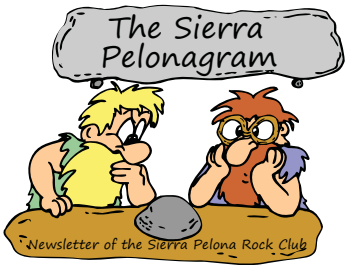
Diane Southwell noted that there is a jewelry making class listed in Seasons. Brenda Litt, a club member, is the teacher.

Jon Meredith said that if anyone needs a badge, let him know so he can make them up. He also brought lanyards for the badges if you prefer to wear them that way.

Bob Caudill, on behalf of his family and himself, thanked everyone in the club for all the thoughts and prayers for Barbara and for attending her memorial service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 and Greg M. began his program on wire wrapping.

Respectively submitted
Heidi S. Webber, Secretary, SPRC



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