

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



December 2011

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

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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.



### **December Birthdays**

Peter Bellas  
Nancy Hilliard  
Morgan Langewisch  
Jon Meredith  
Christine Miner



### **A Message from Your President**

This is my last message to all of you in the SPRC as my term is ending this month. Ron Lawrence is running uncontested for president, and as we know what a wonderful job he has done in the past, we welcome him with open arms (figuratively).

This last two years have raced by for me. We have lost a couple of members like Al Brown and Phil Rizzo; we have gained many new and enthusiastic members and been on some great field trips.

As I leave office, I want to encourage you all once again that this club is what you make of it. That means participating in various activities, maybe joining a committee, helping out with a program, and of course, going on field trips when you can. You have found friends and education in this club; make the most of it. You will never regret it.

Bill Webber,  
SPRC President  
January 2010-December 2011

### **Officers:**

President – Bill Webber  
Vice-President – Ron Strathmann  
Secretary: Minutes-Nancy Hilliard  
Treasurer – Greg Mazourek  
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

### **Chairpersons:**

Pelonagram Editor – Heidi Webber  
Claim - Mike Serino  
Donation Rock Table - Akiko Strathmann  
Field Trips – Open  
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh  
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie  
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathman  
Programs – Open  
Publicity – Open  
Storage - Mike Moreno  
Sunshine - Evelyn Velie  
Web site – Earl Kangas  
Facebook - Greg Langewisch

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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

Visit the SPRC website <http://www.sierrapelona.com/>

## **SPRC Business Meeting**

Greenhouse Café

December 6, 2011

The December meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Greg Mazourek, Greg Langewisch, Shep Koss, Frank Humelbaugh, Earl Kangas, Evelyn Velie, Janelle Williams, and Ron and Akiko Strathmann.

The treasurer's report was passed around and accepted. Greg reminded everyone that dues are due in January.

Shep stated that anyone can send to the CFMS submissions of memoriums, Club Member of the Year, poems, etc. for publication. He also sent an email for CFMS elections which will be published in the Pelonagram.

Greg L. said the Facebook site is doing OK, but not very active yet. He was thanked for doing a great job in setting it up.

Evelyne will send an email regarding the Holiday Dinner this coming weekend, the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Earl gave a report on membership applications and the numbers of visitors to the SPRC website, broken down into various categories.

It was decided to send out a blanket email to all members so voting can be done electronically if they are unable to attend the dinner. Akiko, as a member of the election committee stated she and Ron won't be at the Holiday Dinner when elections will be held. At this time the only contested position is for Vice-president: Janelle and Bill. Because of Diane Southwell's surgery, she will make it if she can, but because that could be up in the air, Greg L. volunteered to accept and keep the votes logged. Then it would all be turned over to Diane at the meeting if she is able to attend. The "reply" option to e-vote would return the vote to the website email, so Earl agreed to forward the votes to Greg.

It was noted that Ron Lawrence sent an email stating that the Diablo Onyx mine posts do not plot the claim to be rectangular, but Shep and Janelle said it doesn't matter so much as the fact that none of the boundaries encroach on restricted land.

Bill made a final statement, thanking everyone for their services during his term as president.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted: Heidi Webber

## CFMS Report

Shep Koss

Here's some of what went on at the CFMS Visalia meeting in November. Elections of new officers and congratulations to them:

Susan Chaisson-Walblom as new President

Bud McMillin as new Vice-President

Jennifer Haley as new 2nd VP

Robert Sankovich as new Secretary

Tom Burchard as new Treasurer

Also discussed was the ongoing move to declare ever more areas as Wilderness designations which further impedes rockhounding. To attempt to halt these move CFMS (AFMS) through ALAA has joined with many off-road groups to add strength through numbers. Amy Grant of CORVA (California Off-Road Vehicle Association) has filed a lawsuit on behalf of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). She can be reached through [amy.grant@corva.org](mailto:amy.grant@corva.org) for more information assistance and advice.

### CFMS Shows, 2012

#### January 21 - 22: EXETER, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society,  
Visalia

Exeter Veteran's Memorial Bldg  
Highway 65, 324 N Kaweah Ave.

Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Contact: Steve Hayward, (559)

734-3843, cell (559) 967-1084

Email: [smhay734@aol.com](mailto:smhay734@aol.com)

Website: [www.tulegem.org](http://www.tulegem.org)

#### January 27-28: REDLANDS, CA

Mineralogical Society of Southern  
California/Micro-Mineralogists

Pacific Micromount Conference

San Bernardino County Museum

2024 Orange Tree Drive

Hours: Fri. 4 - 10; Sat. 8 - 10

\*Field Trip on Sunday, January 29

Contact: Dr. Housley, (626) 697-4435

Email: [rhousley@its.caltech.edu](mailto:rhousley@its.caltech.edu)

Website: [www.mineralsocal.org/micro/index.html](http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/index.html)

FEBRUARY 2012

#### February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem  
Society

Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1

Arabia Street

Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674

Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

MARCH 2012

#### March 2 - 4: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro  
Valley

Newark Pavilion

6430 Thornton Avenue

Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007

Email: [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org)

Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

#### March 5 - 6: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.

LA County Arboretum

301 Baldwin Avenue

Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily

Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624

Email: [joannaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joannaritchey@gmail.com)

Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

#### March 3 - 4: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd.

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Rob, (805) 494-7734

Email: [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

#### March 10 - 11: SALINAS (Spreckels), CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club  
Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA

5th & Llano Streets

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Robert L. Braun, (831) 771-2089

#### March 10 - 11: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Turlock Fairgrounds

900 North Broadway

Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Terry & Bud McMillin,  
(209) 524-3494

Email: [bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com](mailto:bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com)

Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

#### March 17 - 18: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds

McCormack Hall

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 644-9764

Email: [VGMS01@yahoo.com](mailto:VGMS01@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.vallejogemandmineral.com](http://www.vallejogemandmineral.com)

[www.vallejogemandmineral.com](http://www.vallejogemandmineral.com)

#### March 24 - 25: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds

101 Frogtown Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Tak Iwata, (209) 928-5579

Email: [Tak2me@msn.com](mailto:Tak2me@msn.com)

Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

[www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

#### March 24 - 25: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers

Roseville-Placer County

Fairgrounds

800 All American City Blvd. Hours:

Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Contact: Gloria, (916) 216-1114

Email: [gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com)

Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

## **Ballarat Marble Collecting**

*Ron Lawrence*

I know it was two trips ago but I finally got that big chunk of Ballarat marble home and started cutting it.

I guess I should tell its story first.

About seventeen of us started up Surprise Canyon for the collecting area. We knew we had a few obstacles in the way, things called waterfalls. The first was a struggle but the second was too much of a challenge for some and they turned back. I wanted to make it all the way but this was not to be.

It seems I made it maybe three quarters of the way when Vlad and I decided to turned back. On one of the stream crossings Vlad looked down at a stone he stepped on and asked if it might be the marble we were looking for. We examined it and it was Ballarat marble.

With maybe a mile to go to get back to the trucks, we had to talk ourselves into carrying this possibly sixty pound rock. It fit into my backpack and taking turns we, Vlad doing the lions share, made it back to the parking area.

I plan to have slabs for both of us and more by the holiday party.

If this isn't too long-winded already, I'll add something about this last trip.

Please check out the clubs' Facebook page. Greg Langewisch. has been doing a great job of updating and posting pictures and it's easy to add your news and comments.

We had a good group eager to see the area I told them about where the jasper was covering the ground. This was our first stop but it had changed since I was last there. It looked like a few thousand rock hounds had beat us there and even though jasper could still be found, the pickings were slim. On the way to a second area we noticed material on the side of the road and pulled over to check. It was a much better area than the first and we collected many small pieces for tumbling and cabbing.

Our next area is a favorite of Shep's and the material was larger and very colorful. We wanted to stop along the railroad tracks on the way out so we loaded up and half way out realized Dave and Deb weren't behind us. We went back and found them half buried in the sand. We quickly hooked up the chain and had them on the road in no time.

Some of us collected the glass balls along the tracks and more jasper on the way out and headed home.



## Sedimentary Rocks

### Rock Salt

Rock Salt is a chemical sedimentary rock that forms from the evaporation of ocean or saline lake waters. It is also known by the mineral name “halite”. It is rarely found at Earth’s surface, except in areas of very arid climate. It is often mined for use in the chemical industry or for use as a winter highway treatment. Some halite is processed for use as a seasoning for food.



### Sandstone

Sandstone is a clastic sedimentary rock made up mainly of sand-size (1/16 to 2 millimeter diameter) weathering debris. Environments where large amounts of sand can accumulate include beaches, deserts, flood plains and deltas.

## December Birthstones

The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*

### Tanzanite

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.

### Zircon

Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.

### Turquoise

The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin’s egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.

