

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



February 2010

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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.

**The San Joaquin Valley  
Lapidary Society**

Bakersfield California's 5th Annual  
Rock, Gem & Mineral Show  
and Rendezvous

Kern County Fair Grounds  
1142 South P. Street

Bakersfield, California

March 23rd-24th-25th 2010

Friday: 9:00 am.-8:00pm.

Saturday and Sunday:

9:00 am.-5:00 pm

For more information, contact

Helfrich's Jewelry Creations

School Of Lapidary Arts

and Bead Shop

2225 River Blvd.

Bakersfield, California 93305

Ph (661)872-8230

**February Birthdays**

Barbra Caudill  
Barbra Cottage  
Roxanne Heagy  
Louise Huber  
Renee Real



**Eastern Sierra Gem and Mineral Show**

April 30-May 2, 2010

Bishop Fairgrounds at

Sierra Street and Fair Drive

Bishop, CA

Friday April 30: 6pm-9pm

Saturday: 9:30am-5pm

Sunday: 10am-3pm

Free Admission

For more information, contact

Francee Graham at

[franceem@qnet.com](mailto:franceem@qnet.com) or

760.876.4319

**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 - Al Brown

Field Trips – Bonnell Forstner

Historian - Frank Humelbaugh

Hospitality – Evelyn Velie

Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathmann

Programs – Mike Serino

Publicity – Diane Southwell

Storage - Mike Moreno

Sunshine - Evelyn Velie

Web site – Earl Kangas

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/>

**A Note From Someone Who Knows:**

The best site I have found for all rock tumbling questions is [www.rocktumblinghobby.com](http://www.rocktumblinghobby.com) (<http://www.rocktumblinghobby.com>) since it has many pictures as well as question boards. It also has detailed instructions for the 4-stage process for newbies.

Ellen Moe

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

*(I checked out the site and have bookmarked it as it really seems to have a whole lot of information for this newbie!-Heidi)*



## Message from our President

It looks like spring for the club is really shaping up. We have trips scheduled for February 20 and the 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to attend a couple of fund-raising venues in Stoddard Wells in March along with Bakersfield and Lancaster in April. As those plans firm up, the membership will be notified, especially since we will need help.

Our club is growing in leaps and bounds. We now have 53 members with four new members voted in during the February Business Meeting.

I hope to see all of you during this month's meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Greg will do a presentation on Unnatural Stones. And, if you haven't yet paid your dues for 2010, Greg will be more than happy to take your money.

See you there.

Bill Webber  
President, SPRC

## February

### Amethyst



Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted.

Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures.

Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry.

Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.

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## CFMS ITEMS of INTEREST

### Item 1: April Lands Claim Seminar

The purpose of this seminar is to encourage CFMS societies to file and share claims and to provide them with the information to do so. The new "Hard Rock Mining and Reclamation Act" was introduced in the House and Senate last July. The proposed "Desert Conservation and Restoration Act" is making its way through the legislative process. Seminar speakers will include Dick Pankey (CFMS), Bud McMillin (insurance) and Gregg Wilkerson (BLM Claim Specialist). Seminar will be hosted by the Mother Lode Mineral Society on Saturday April 24, 2010 in Empire, Ca near Modesto. The all-day seminar (including provided lunch) is \$5.00. We should have a representative for at least three reasons: preservation of our claim; determine what is claimable for new claims; properly filing claims to preserve our pastime.

### Item 2: Joining ALAA as a club.

ALAA (American Land Access Association) is the AFMS supported organization to influence legislation in preserving and keeping open public lands for our recreation. Further, it is legal for tax-exempt organizations to lobby within guidelines without jeopardizing tax-exempt status.

These guidelines include: activities that do not exceed 5% of time and expenditure so as to be considered insubstantial. This 5% guideline was established by court cases.

In the alternative, the position could be taken that proposed legislation would affect the existence of the organization, its powers and duties or its tax-exempt status. That is the ability to collect material used in educational activities.

Source: IRS Publication 557

Further info on these and other articles can be found in the February CFMS newsletter at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)

Shep Koss  
CFMS Director for Sierra Pelona Rock Club

**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB**  
BUSINESS MEETING 2/02/2010  
Greenhouse Café on Bouquet Cyn. Rd.

**In attendance were:** Heidi & Bill Webber, Earl Kangas, Ron & Akiko Strathmann, Mike Serino, Al Brown, Mike Moreno, Diane Southwell, Greg Mazourek, Shep Koss, Evelyn Velie, George Lawrence, and Colleen Clough.

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Secretary Nancy Hilliard phoned in stating she was ill. Colleen Clough became substitute secretary.

**Treasurer's Report** – Greg: We have 53 members. Some members still need to pay their membership dues. He will contact them. Our CD matures on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. We are presently receiving 0.2% interest because it is on a month-to-month basis. He will check into the interest rate for 12 months and 18 months and report to the president his findings. This was approved by the members.

**January's Minutes** were approved as there were no changes or corrections. The minutes were accepted as is.

**Status of Claim** – Diane: She called Inyo Co BLM and discovered that an important letter she was waiting for was in transit. She will check with the post office as to where the letter is. Basically, Inyo County has accepted the information for the Claim. More work is needed to be done regarding the notifications to various governmental bureaus to complete the process.

**Membership** – Ron S: Dues are trickling in. We have voted in four new members who are: **Vladimir & Brenda Litt** and **Thomas & Audrey Gibson**. Ron will be making new membership packets. These new members will receive their packets at the general meeting.

**T-Shirts & Hats** – Earl: Club's logo are on these items to advertise the club. The large logo is difficult to put on the sleeves of the t-shirts. He suggests that we get a smaller logo patch for t-shirts and explore the cost for these smaller logo patches. Earl was told to contact Sarita as she had received the large patches, t-shirts & hats from a graphic supplier and maybe we can use the same graphic supplier to make the smaller patches. Earl said he would check with Sarita.

**Sunshine** – Evelyn: She had gotten a birthday cake for the January birthdays for the January general meeting; therefore, it was agreed it wasn't necessary to get belated birthday cards for the January birthday people. For the February birthday people, cards have been sent out. She will purchase more cards from the 99-cent store and other such stores. This was approved by the members.

**Program Director** – Mike S.: For the February program, Greg will give a presentation on Unnatural Stones (also known as cultured or man-made stones). March program is still open for ideas. Some ideas were discussed at the meeting. If you know of a good speaker, please contact Mike.

**Federation Report** – Shep: He received a newsletter from the Federation. He will include inserts from that newsletter for our Pelonagram. There will be a Land Claim Seminar on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Modesto. Cost is \$5 which includes lunch. This seminar will be presented by Greg Wilkerson of BLM who will cover such subjects as how to file for a land claim, what is claimable, what are exceptions, etc. Diane would like to attend.

**Selling Ventures** – Greg & Shep: At present the club has three or four selling ventures which are: Stoddard Wells (tailgate) in Victorville (March), possibly Bakersfield (April?), Lancaster High School (April), and Lombardi Ranch (October). Various members have been tumbling and polishing rocks for the wheel. We also have shells. Shep brought in a cab and a polished end of a slab both of which had a refrigerator magnet glued on the back. We can make more of these and sell them. We can also get night lights with translucent slabs attached and sell those. We have a number of things in storage which we can also sell.

**Field Trips** – Shep: **Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> to Green Ash Hills** to pick up agates, jasper, and other chalcedony. We meet at our regular carpool place at 7:30am at Mammoth Rd off of Soledad Cyn Rd in Canyon Country. **Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> Ant Hill** to pick up marine fossils. We will meet at our usual place. There will be more information regarding this and future field trips at our general meeting.

**Ant Hill / Shark's Tooth Hill** is presently up for sale. The sons want to sell it for millions of dollars because that's what their dad had said it was worth. The wife would like to preserve the land for future rock, mineral, and fossil collectors. The museums do not have the money to pay for the land. The Federation either can't or won't pay for the land. Diane mentioned that maybe we can get Huell Howser of California Gold do a presentation on the marine fossils found there including LA County Natural History Museum's marine fossils and Buena Vista Museum's marine fossils. Shep will check with Sierra Club and the Federation to see how to protect the site.

**Storage** – Akiko and Earl: The club's property has been moved to the new storage area. We have 7 or 8 old wood & glass display cases. They are old & dirty and need a lot of work to restore them. They take up a lot of room. The question is do we need all of them, a couple of them, or none of them? Akiko thinks we should throw them away. Others think we should keep a couple of them should we do a display at a gem show someday. Pelonagrams, Minutes, Articles of Incorporation, field trips, old photos, old maps, and other old documents from the past (late 1950's plus) are also in storage. Earl says he can scan these old documents onto disks. The information will be safely stored and we can dispose of the papers. He wouldn't mind some assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Clough, Substitute Secretary

## Growing Crystals

*At the last General Meeting of the SPRC, Mike Serino demonstrated how to make crystals. I went hunting on the internet and found a recipe for a quick-growing crystal. It is very simple and may be the perfect thing to do with your kids on a slow day. The best thing is that you probably have most or all of the ingredients already in your home.*

Most crystals take days or weeks to form. Use this technique if you have a sunny day and want crystals FAST!

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Time Required:** 1-3 hours

### Here's How:

1. First, a sunny day isn't required, but it will help! You want rapid evaporation of the water to form the crystals, so select a warm, dry place to grow crystals (sunny porch or window is great).
2. Use the scissors to cut black (or other dark color) construction paper so that it will fit in the bottom of the pan.
3. Add 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt to 1/4 cup warm water. Stir until the salt is dissolved.
4. Put the construction paper in the pan and pour the salt solution over the paper.
5. Put the pan in the place you have selected for crystal-growing. As the water evaporates, you'll see lots of spiky crystals.
6. Have fun! Use a magnifying glass to see your creations up-close.

### Tips:

1. This is one of the fastest, least toxic methods of growing crystals. You can substitute regular salt for Epsom, but the resulting crystals won't be as exciting.
2. Wash your hands after handling Epsom salts. Don't drink the solution and avoid spilling it on yourself.
3. Experiment with adding water colors or food color to the salt solution.

### What You Need:

- black construction paper
- pie or cake pan
- warm water
- Epsom salt
- Scissors

*Reference: About.Com/Chemistry*

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## A Trip to the Beach

When we woke up Saturday morning and saw the sun shining so we decided to try Jon's whale-bone trip.

When we hit the road a little late we chanced it and took a "short cut" heading out Elizabeth Lake Rd from Bonnie's house with the idea of cutting down Bouquet to the 126 and out that way.

When we turned on Bouquet we were hit with a big sign saying chains required. Thinking we would have no better luck continuing through Lake Hughes to the five, we turned around and went the long way through the Santa Clarita valley and out the 126.

We got to Refugio Beach just as the group was heading out for the next location so we joined them. Gaviota was great for bone and agate and what we use to call Jalama travertine. I still have trouble telling bone from the thousands of similar rocks laying around in the sand but thanks to Jon's expertise Bonnie found some nice pieces.

The tide may have been out but with the high surf you had to watch the water or risk a soaking. Thankfully my boots are water proof but Bonnie wasn't so lucky; not only weren't her shoes water proof but her pants weren't either.

We had five members of our club Sarita and Ralph, Bonnie and me, and of course our trip leader Jon.

After Gaviota we headed back south to El Capitan for one more try at collecting. This beach is all rocks, no sand, and a twisted ankle was always a possibility. Less material but we had enough to call the trip a success.

Going through our (her) treasures back at her place, there was a lot of bone including a large whale bone somewhat in the shape of a heart. If you have collected with Bonnie, you know she puts a lot of effort in finding heart-shape anything.

All in all it was a great trip and a great day.

Thank you Jon and the Del Aire Club.

RON LAWRENCE

CO FIELD TRIP CHAIR

SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB

SPRC Trip to the  
Natural History Museum  
*(without a thousand words)*



## CFMS Show Calendar for February and March

### February 12-21, 2010, Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date  
Festival

Gem amp;& Mineral Building Bldg #1  
46-350 Arabia Street

Hours: 10 am - 10 pm

Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674

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

### February 26-27 2010, Northridge, CA

Del Air Rockhounds Club

United Methodist Church

9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)

Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. -9:30 p.m. - Sat. 10-  
5

Julie Marin (818) 886-7190

Website: [http://delairrockhounds.](http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com)

[blogspot.com](http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com)

### February 26 - March 7 2010, Imperial, CA

Imperial Valley Gem &  
Mineral Society

California Midwinter Fair &  
Fiesta

G&M Bld

Hours: 2/26-2/28 & 3/6-37

noon-10p.m.; 3/1-3/5 4p.m.-  
10p.m.

Joe Rodrigues (760) 353-1965

### March 5-6-7 2010, Newark, CA

Mineral and Gem Society of Castro  
Valley

Newark Pavilion

6430 Thorton Avenue, Newark, CA  
94560

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

Lary Ham (510) 887-9007

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

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

### March 6-7 2010, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.

Los Angles Co. Arboretum & Botanic  
Gardens

301 Baldwin Ave.

Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30

Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624

Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)

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

### March 6-7 2010, Ventura, CA

ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds  
10 W. harbor Blvd.

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

Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043

Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)

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

### March 12, 13-14 2010, Victorville, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral  
Society

Stoddard Well Tailgate (Stodrard

Wells)

Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit  
from I-15

Hours: 8-5 daily

Brett Ward (760) 954-4323

Club (760) 243-2330

Website: [www.vvgmc](http://www.vvgmc)

### March 13-14 2010, San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

San Marino Masonic Center

3130 Huntington Drive

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

(626) 355-6964 or (626) 298-1534

Marcia Goetz [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)

### March 13-14 2010, Spreckels, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club

Veteran's Memorial Hall

5th & Liano Streets

Hours: 10-5 daily

Ernie DeFever (831) 422-3422

Email: [minimad64@comcast.net](mailto:minimad64@comcast.net)

Website: [salinasrockandgem.com](http://salinasrockandgem.com)

### March 13-14 2010, Turlock, CA

Mother Load Mineral Society

Stanislaus Co. Fairgrounds

900 N Broadway

Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5

Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494

Email: [terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com)

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

### March 20-21 2010, Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary society

Kern County Shrine Club

700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)

Hours: 9-5 daily

Lewis Helfrich Home (661) 323-2663

Cell: (661) 378-4450

Email: [lewsrocks@netzero.net](mailto:lewsrocks@netzero.net)

### March 20-21 2010, Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club

Army National Guard Armory

304 Park Avenue, Escondido, CA

92025

Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4

Van Lynch (760) 749-4164

Email: [michellandvan@hotmail.com](mailto:michellandvan@hotmail.com)

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

### March 20-21 2010, Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

vallejo elks Lodge

2850 Redwood Parkway

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Phylis Malacki (707) 745-3255

Email: [Vgms01@yahoo.com](mailto:Vgms01@yahoo.com)

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

### March 27-28 2010, Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club

Lemoore Trinity Hall

470 Champion Street, Lemoore CA

Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Judy Pereira (559) 924-4052

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

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

### March 27-28 2010, Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers

Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds

800 All American City Blvd.

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

Glori Marie (916) 216-1114

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

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

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

### March 27-28 2010, Torrance, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society

Torrance Recreational Center

3341 Torrance Blvd.

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

Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff (310)

318-2170

Roger L. Mills

Email: [roger\\_mills@acm.org](mailto:roger_mills@acm.org)

Website: [palosverdes.com/sblap/](http://palosverdes.com/sblap/)

## Club Trip, February 20

For our club field trip on the twentieth we have two locations with some great material not too far away.

Bonnie and I checked out the other side of the road at Field Rd. and there is a whole hill of agate and jasper.

When we went by Green Ash Hills there were some people shooting so we headed to the next canyon out and found some great agate.

If you check the Gem Trails book these locations have petrified wood and palm and other material.

We will meet at Mammoth and Soledad at seven thirty on the 20th. Bring water rock hammer, collecting bag and a lunch.

This of course depends on the weather so watch for further emails.

Bonnie and Ron

## CFMS Field Trip

Hi Hounders,

I know I haven't posted much recently (don't ask), but now I want to make you aware of an upcoming trip for all CFMS members and members of affiliated clubs. It is held in conjunction with the Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Society with Rob Sankovich. With last year's turnout of nearly 100 people for this trip we're doing it again.

WHERE: Ant Hill, Bakersfield, Ca.

WHEN: Saturday Feb 27 at 9am

MATERIAL: 15 million year old Miocene marine fossils, shark teeth, whale teeth, porpoise teeth, seal teeth, bones galore, etc

MEET SPOT: 9am NE of Bakersfield at the Chevron Station on the corner of Lake Ming Rd and Alfred Harrell Hwy off route 178.. Here we will see samples, sign Waivers of Liability and go over quick instructions. Please park in rear.

TOOLS: hammer, chisel or screwdriver, 1/4 inch mesh sifting screen or similar (like colanders), shovel, bucket zip lock bags and spray bottles. Be aware this is a known Valley Fever Area. The road is paved to within a couple hundred yards of the final parking area. Requires a 3/4 mile hike uphill the last few hundred yards of which is steep.

\*\*\*Please see the CFMS website under "field trips" for more details and photos from last year. These photos will show the trenches, steep hills, diggers and finds.

[www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)\*\*\*

Shep Koss - CFMS-South Field Trip Co-chair

land line phone 661-248-0411

Sierra Pelona Rock Club  
P.O. Box 221256  
Newhall, Ca. 91322