

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



February 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.



### A Message from the President

We have some good non-official field trips coming up. I would like to see some of the newer members join us as there is so much to learn and springtime in the desert is so beautiful. Please join us.

We still need a few positions filled, please consider it. The more active our members are, the better the club is and that benefits us all.

So until next month, Happy Rock-Hounding!



Welcome New Members **Brigitte Marzourek** (no, she hasn't been a member until now) and **Stephanie Holgren**.

**Wanted:** Dedicated persons for various openings in the club. Spend just a little time each month and reap the benefits of a job well done. On-the-job training is readily available. We need a Publicity Chair, Program Chair, Field Trip Chair and a new web master. To apply, contact Bill Webber. No experience necessary.

**If you haven't paid  
your dues yet,  
please do so  
as soon as possible**



### February Birthdays:

Barbara Caudill  
Barbara Cottage  
Rene Real

### 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 – Open  
Historian - Frank Humelbaugh  
Hospitality – Evelyn Velie  
Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathmann  
Programs – Open  
Publicity – Open  
Storage - Mike Moreno  
Sunshine - Evelyn Velie  
Web site – Open

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 Minutes**  
Greenhouse Café  
February 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:45. In attendance were Bill and Heidi Webber, Greg and Brigetta Mazourek, Ron and George Lawrence, Karen Kubota, Diane Southwell, Evelyn Velie, Frank Humelbaugh, Connie Flores-Reisbeck, Bob Caudill, Ron and Akiko Strathmann.

Bill announced that this month's presentation at the general meeting would be on mining lamps presented by Mike Serino.

In March, the club will have an anniversary celebration of 52 years with the Federation. Evelyn and Heidi will work on finger foods such as sandwiches and so on for the attendees. Ron will bring pictures from the last 10 years' field trips in the form of a slide show.

Evelyn will do a presentation on diamonds in April.

In May, we hope to have Vincent from COC as our guest speaker. His specialty is Earth Science.

Various fund-raisers were discussed: Ventura Gem Show March 5 and 6, Stoddard Wells March 11 through 13 (bulk material and the wheel), and Antelope Valley in April. Earth Day at Newhall Park in May and Placerita Nature Center's Open House in May,

Evelyn suggested we put out bowls of nicely polished rocks for sale with a price range depending on size and quality of the product, in addition to our usual offerings.

Greg and Ron suggested we do Stoddard Wells in March and the Antelope Valley show in April. Plans will be firmed up at the next meeting.

**Web Site Report:** We need someone to take over our web site. Bud Sabatino has resigned and Earl isn't interested in returning as web master as he has other irons in the fire.

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg said dues still need to be paid by about 25 members.. Heidi will do the audit the 2010 financials. Greg also paid the next 6 months rent for our storage space.

**Claim:** Greg will forward a production report request from Inyo County to Mike Serino.

**Historian:** Thank You letters (for participating in events) from Placerita Nature Center were given to Frank to preserve. Frank asked that the 2 fold-up display boards be decorated with pictures and articles for the anniversary party. Ron will print photos and Heidi will work on the display.

**Field Trips:** Ron said John Meredith's Beach Trip looking for whale bones and other treasures was a great outing and he would like to see new members start attending these events. He and Bonnie are planning another non-club trip on Saturday, February 19 to Cramer Corners for opalite, agate, jasper, petrified wood and green agate. It is easy to find material, even around the parking areas but there are places to dig nice green agate with a bit of effort. He reiterated that these aren't official club trips as Bonnie has resigned as the chair and the club still needs someone to volunteer for this position. He said they will have all the back-up they need from him.

**Publicity:** Diane Southwell is having trouble getting info into the Signal unless she has a minimum of 3 weeks advance notice. Bill thanked Diane for keeping this position until a replacement can be found.

**Hospitality:** Evelyn's daughter makes great decorated cakes and will be asked if she will do a special cake for our anniversary meeting. The club will reimburse any expenses.

**Membership:** Ron had two new applications for membership—Stephanie Holgren and Brigetta Mazourek. It was voted and approved to accept them. Welcome.

**Other items discussed:** We need to cut slabs of howlite. Greg said he has chunks we can cut the slabs from.

Ron would like rock-hounding stickers to be obtained for the club. We also need to see about new business cards. Karen has a website that does the cards at low cost. Heidi will look into the possibility of getting stickers from them too.

We need to find out who needs new badges.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

*Submitted by Karen Kubota*



Steve Hobbs-Photo

## Unofficial Field Trip Report:

*Bonnie and Ron*

What a weekend. The weather was fantastic both days. It wasn't a club trip but we had a good turnout both days. I was wondering about Saturday since it was a two-mile hike each way but eight members and two guests made the trip. We were tired but happy when we got back to the trucks.

The walk in was easy with great desert views and thoughts of the great material up ahead. Rounding the last corner is a bit of a letdown until you get close to the hill and can see the colors and design in the rocks. The main area has enough to keep you busy but

that didn't stop some of us from exploring. We found other digs up top with more strawberry onyx but none of the promised jasper and agate across the valley.

With a lunch break and some high grading, to make sure we weren't carrying too heavy of a load, we headed back to the parking area. I would have thought this was enough for the day but when the Thulite area was mentioned, everyone perked up.

Back to Ludlow and eleven miles east puts us up the right hill. Thankfully we could drive right to the collecting area. (no more walking). We called it a day and split up from there. It was great of friends join Bonnie and me and to make new friends--Dan and his cousin Jason.

Sunday was a totally different day. We had a little trouble getting everyone together with confusion on the meet times but eleven of us met at the top of an unknown hill off the dry lake area near Clay Mine Rd. Bonnie was sure we were on the right hill but no Chapinite anywhere. Just then Ruth shows up and points about one hundred feet over and sure enough, material everywhere. It was the right hill just not far enough over. After everyone found enough agate, chert, jasper, and leaverites we went exploring.

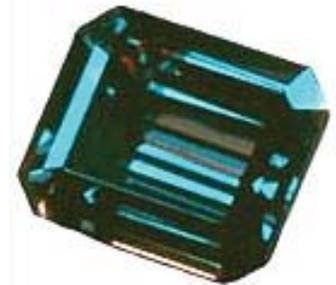
Every time we stopped to check our bearings, we found agate and bloodstone or something. Bonnie and I finally got to show the club the Purple Agate we discovered when we were out with Paul K. and Barbara C. awhile back. It was even more purple than I remembered. Pretty stuff. Ruth showed us an area on the far side of Castle Butte near the prison with bog agate and petrified wood. A few of us found some real keepers. I just got more garden rocks.

Bonnie puts a lot of effort checking out areas for the club (not that we don't enjoy it) so join us next time and see some of our beautiful desert.

### Alexandrite

This is a variety of chrysoberyl, like cat's eye, distinguished by a play of colours which has earned it the name of "chameleon stone". Its natural colour ranges from dark to pale green, but in the light may appear anything from red to yellow, to orange, to mauve even, depending on how the rays strike it.

It is a very attractive stone, but rare and therefore very costly, and only the top quality is worth buying. It is, however, an excellent investment because it is much prized by jewelers and collectors.



Pure alexandrite is always faceted, or cut in cabochon if flaws are present (in this case be careful not to confuse it with other "chameleon" chrysoberyls or labradorite). Its value is on a par with the four precious stones and when well set is a match for even the finest diamond. The best specimens come from Russia, but it is also found in Ceylon, Burma, Brazil, Madagascar and the USA.

Name	Moh's	Specific Gravity	Structure	Cleavage	Refractive Index	Double	Disp.	Pleochro	Fluorescence
Alexandrite	8.5	3.70-3.73	Orthorhombic	Imperfect	1.744-1.755	0.011	0.015	v Weak	None

Source: Mineralzone.com

## More Field Trips from Jon Meredith That You Might Find Interesting

CFMS Field Trip—February 26th 2011 Sat. 9am. Santa Monica Mountains, CA

Agoura, Kanan Road-saginite, marcasite, chalcedony

Malibu, Piuma Road-scallop fossils

CFMS Co Chair south field trips

Robert Sankovich 805-494-7734 [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

Adam Dean 909-489-4899 [theagatehunter@verizon.net](mailto:theagatehunter@verizon.net)

Field trip: Our field trip will be to the Santa Monica Mtns. We will be going to 3 sites:

Agoura/Kanan Rd. Sites 1 & 2 for agate-saginite & plume, marcacite, chalcedony. There are several ravines, rock out cropings. Light to moderate hike, getting harder the more you go uphill.

Malibu/Piuma Rd. Site 3 for scallop fossils, large and small. It's a moderate/steep hike up the hill where you will find the scallop fossils in the rocks and on the ground. I'd recommend long pants, long sleeves, gloves. Directions: Look for a CFMS sign on my white F-250 Ford Pickup 4x crew cab.

Agoura/Kanan Rd (9am-1pm)-. Exit Kanan Rd. Head south towards mountains/beach. Drive 1.7 miles on Kanan Road to a large pullout on Right (North) side of the road.

Malibu/Piuma Rd. (1:30pm-) Exit Las Virgenes Road head South, towards the ocean. Drive .2 miles to the intersection of Agoura Road, keep on Las Virgenes Road/Malibu Road 4.5 miles. To Piuma Road, turn Left, East, go 6.1 miles up a winding road to the top, along the crest, then go down on the other side, (ocean side) Park on left side of road, in large pullout. There are many vistas view on the drive, don't forget to bring your camera.

Meeting: Saturday Afternoon, Feb 26th, 9am. We will meet at the Kanan site. We will be there for 4 hours at the 2 Kanan sites. At 1pm we will head to the Malibu/Piuma site. There will be a short briefing of the sites. Please remember to sign the release form to participate in the field trip. These are easy accesses, but moderate climbs. Tools: Collecting bags, buckets, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, pry bar, eye protection, gloves, trowels, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, newspaper for wrapping fossils,. Drinking water, lunch or snacks.

Maps: E-mail us and we will send you maps to the Agoura/Kanan and Malibu/Piuma sites.

Robert Sankovich

CFMS Co Chair Field Trips South



### Amazonite

Amazonite, also known as 'Amazon stone,' is a light, aqua-green stone with white mottled flecks. The name, Amazonite, has been taken from the Amazon River, where formerly certain green stones were obtained, but it is found in Brazil. The origin of the stone is the New England States and Colorado. The composition is basically of potassium feldspar, and it is a green variety of microcline. Amazonite is a mineral, but because of its lively green color, it is cut and polished as a gemstone. The green color of the stone has been attributed to the presence of copper. It can also be due to some organic pigment, probably an organic salt of iron, as it is removed by heat from the source.

Modern amazonite has a limited occurrence. Previously it was obtained exclusively in organic rocks from Miyask in the Ilmen mountains, 50 miles south-west of Chehabinsk (Russia). Recently high quality crystals were obtained from Pike's Peak, Colorado. It was found associated with the quartz, orthoclase, and albite. Few other locations in the US yield amazonite. It is also found in pegmatite in Madagascar.

Amazonite is believed to be a sacred stone of high value. It was extensively used by the ancient Egyptians. It gives a cooling and soothing effect to the mental state. It is used for healing and spiritual growth. It is applied to align the heart and solar plexus chakras and also the etheric and mental bodies. The body energy currents are strengthened by the use of amazonite.

Name	Moh's	Specific Gravity	Structure	Cleavage	Refractive Index	Double Disp.	Pleochro	Fluorescence
Amazonite	6+	2.56-2.58	Triclinic	Perfect	1.522-1.530	-0.008 0.012	None	Weak

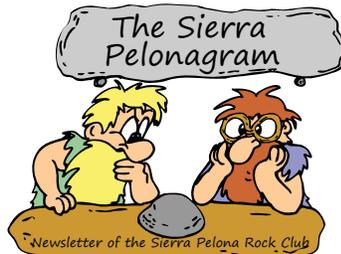
Source: *Mineralzone.com*

February 18-27 - INDIO, CA  
San Geronio Mineral & Gem  
Society  
Riverside County Fair & National  
Date Festival  
Gem amp;& Mineral Building Bldg  
#1  
46-350 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10 -10 daily  
Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674  
Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)  
February 25-27 - NEWARK, CA  
Mineral and Gem Society of Castro  
Valley  
Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Avenue  
Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10  
- 5  
Lary Ham, show chair - (510) 887-  
9007  
Email: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org)  
Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

### CFMS Shows

February 25-26 - NORTHRIDGE,  
CA  
Del-Air Rockhounds  
Northridge United Methodist  
Church  
9650 Reseda Blvd.  
Hours: Fri. 3 - 9; Sat. 10 -5  
Chris S. Ward  
Email: [chris\\_ward678@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_ward678@yahoo.com)  
Website: [delairrockhounds.blogspot.com](http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com)  
March 5-6 - ARCADIA, CA  
Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.  
Los Angles Co. Arboretum &  
Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily  
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 5-6 - 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 /  
[lilliananderson@juno.com](mailto:lilliananderson@juno.com)  
Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)  
March 11-13 - VICTORVILLE,  
CA  
Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral  
Society  
Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry  
(Stoddard Well)  
Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit  
from I-15  
Hours: 8-5 daily  
Brett Ward (760) 954-4323  
Email: [Bretts88@verizon.net](mailto:Bretts88@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org)



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