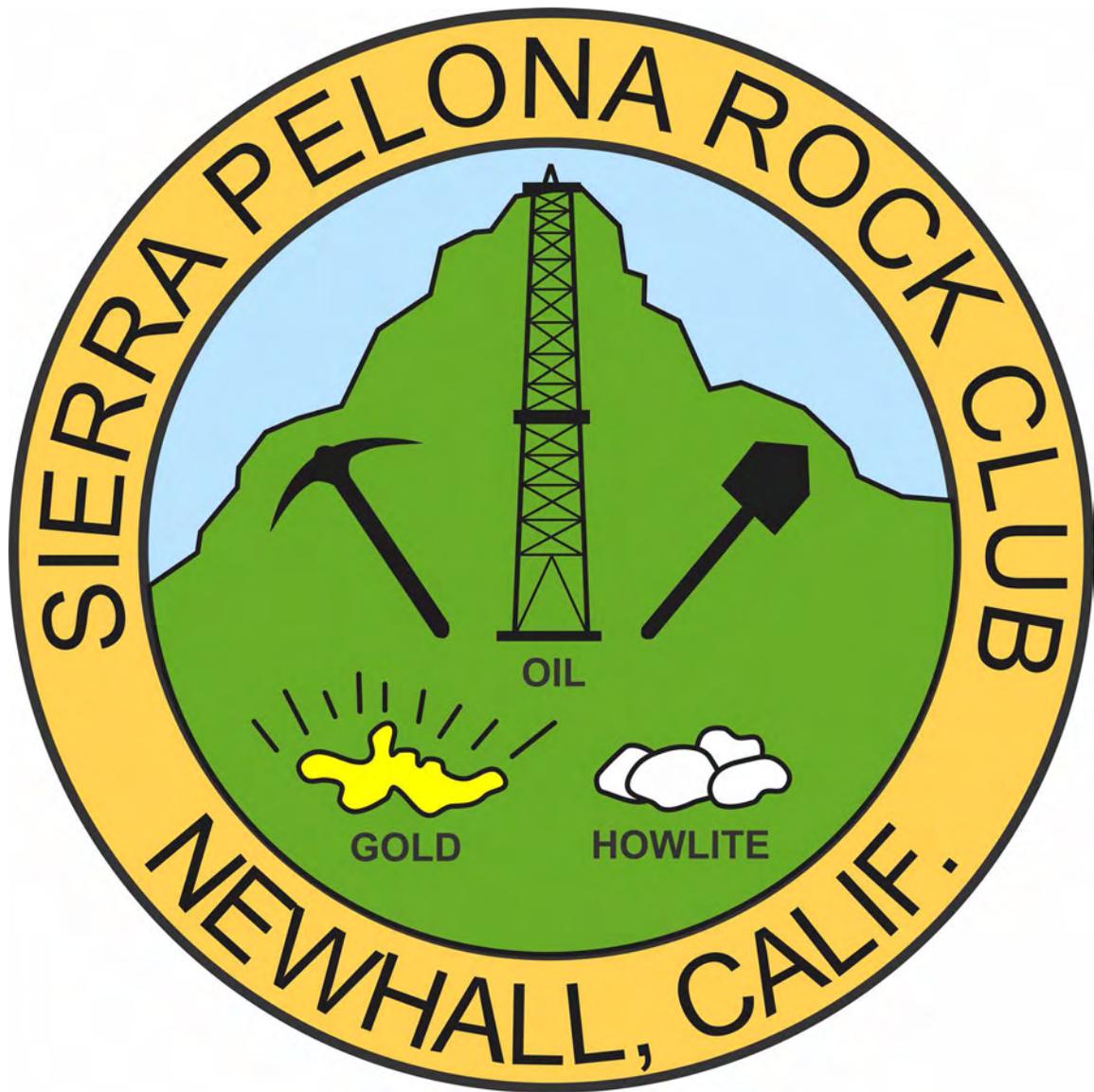


The Sierra Pelonaogram



February 2015

... 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.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all you Winter Babies

February

Roxanne Heagy Feb 7
Margie Krug Feb 1
Jeff Legler Feb 13
Brigitte Mazourek Feb 1
Tina White Feb 17



March

Luis Busso March 25
Jerry Farrar March 7
Roger Gibson March 3
Ruth Hidalgo March 10
Brenda Litt March 14
Evelyn Velie March 27
Bill Webber March 19

First Quarter Wirewrap

A good and productive time was had by all.



Officers:

President – Greg Langewisch
Vice-President – Trina Aeen
Secretary: Tina White
Treasurer – Ron Rackliffe
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) – Shep Koss

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table--Akiko Strathmann
Equipment--Bill Webber
Field Trips – Open
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Tina White
Membership – Heidi Webber
On-Line Presence (website)-- Larry Holt
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Shep Koss
Publicity –Bruce Velie
Storage--Bill Webber
Sunshine--Brigitte 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

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Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net

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



Happy February Everyone!

Well, 2015 is in full swing and the SPRC has already had a number of fun events.

Our January general meeting was a blast. We had a whole bunch of guests who got a glimpse of who we are and what we are planning for 2015. We had a slide show with pics of 2014 events. We had a silent auction and the donation table raffle going. Also, we had some delicious cake for desert. It was great to chat with everyone and get to know some new people.

The January field trip started at the Diablo claim where we collected a bunch of the green onyx and red/orange travertine. From there we headed to Ballarat to get the salmon colored marble, which was plentiful and easy to obtain. On the way home, we made one more stop to dig out some white banded onyx. As always, I came back with much more material than I had intended to collect.

Soon after the field trip we had our first workshop of 2015 and boy, was it a doozy! Without a doubt, we had the best attendance we've ever had at a workshop. All of the machines were working and Bill was constantly on the move to ensure that everything was working and everyone was able to cut and cab their material.

Finally, only a couple days after the workshop was the first wire wrapping group meeting. We had about 10 or so wire wrappers come out to make some jewelry with some just-polished rocks and wire. As always, it was a great time sitting around, chatting and making some wire wraps.

Whew! There was a lot going on this past 30 days.

Now February is here and we have more fun in store. The general meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th where the topic will be onyx. We collected a bunch of onyx on the last field trip, so there should be plenty to show off. The general meeting will again have a silent auction and donation table raffle. Also, we're bringing back the "Best Rock" contest.

Everyone who went on the field trip is encouraged to bring in a rock that they collected and enter it into the contest. Only rocks that were collected on the previous field trip are eligible. There will be two categories in the contest

Best Natural Rock

Best Worked Rock

Members can enter one rock for each category. The whole club can then vote on the winning rocks and the winners will receive some tickets for the donation table raffle.

Also at the meeting, we'll talk about the field trip for February, which is going to be another great trip. Everyone should be able to collect all sorts of nice rocks to take home. February is going to be another fun month for the SPRC. I hope to see a great turn out at the general meeting!



For the January field trip, members and guests gathered together and collected Diablo onyx and Ballarat marble. They all came home from a gorgeous winter day in the desert with a load of beautiful rock just waiting to be transformed into a work of art.



Ballarat Marble, finished piece by Omid Aeen



Ballarat Marble



Ron Rackliffe working hard



Diablo Onyx

First Quarter Workshop

Such an incredible turnout for the first workshop of 2015! Everyone brought rocks to work on. There were a bunch of first timers who were so excited to see their rocks shaped and polished. Big thanks to Bill and Heidi Webber for hosting the event. I know it's a lot of work to set these up for and clean up after these events. We couldn't do these without you!



Upcoming CFMS Shows

Go to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website at www.cfmsinc.org for a listing of all the shows slated for 2015.

Dues are due. See Ron Rackliffe at the General Meeting on February 17, or mail your membership check. The club is growing and we are finding more and more interesting things to involve the members—you! So support your club.



Crazy Lace Agate is called the Laughter Stone, or "Happy Lace." It is associated with sunny Mexican fiestas and dancing, and brings joy to those who wear it. Crazy Lace Agate is a variety of banded Chalcedony, a mineral of the Quartz family. It is predominantly white, with layers of creamy browns, blacks and grays. Some may include layers of yellow ochre, gold, scarlet and red. Agate is sometimes called the earth rainbow because, in its various forms, the concentric bands in nature form nearly every color the earth can produce, including a colorless form.

Historically, Agate has been discovered with the artifacts of Neolithic people, and was used as healing amulets and ornamentation dating back to Babylon.

Its medicinal uses continued through the ancient Greek and Egyptian civilizations, and spread throughout Africa and the Middle East into Russia. Agate sparked a world renowned stone cutting and polishing industry in Germany that flourished from the 15th to the 19th century, and exists today.

Ancient Romans valued the Agate for its reputed medicinal and talismanic properties. Powdered and mixed with water, it was said to counteract serpents' venom. Pliny, a Roman historian, quoted the Magi as teaching in Persia that storms might be averted by burning Agates.

Agates were believed to make their wearers agreeable, persuasive, and give them the favor of God, guarding them from all dangers, and enabling them to vanquish earthly obstacles, such as high winds and lightning. Ancient seafarers used Agate in amulets of protection from the fury of the surging ocean.

The wearing of Agate was believed to be a cure for insomnia and was thought to induce pleasant dreams.

Legends claim Agate to have the power to secure the wearer from danger and to protect children from falling, and to endow their owners with strength, courage and the ability to heal fears.

Agate has a rich history of divinely revealed images within its natural veining, inclusions and markings. Such images as the Virgin Mary, Jesus, John the Baptist, angels and various other human forms have manifested themselves in these natural works of art and are found in churches and museums around the world.



What Are Minerals?

Can you name some minerals off the top of your head? You likely came up with things like gold, silver, copper and coal. These are all correct, but there are many more minerals on Earth - over 4,000 in fact! To understand what makes a mineral a mineral, we need to understand the basic requirements that categorize them, as well as their properties.

What Makes a Mineral a Mineral?

In order for something to be a mineral, it must first meet four criteria:

1. First, all minerals are solid. So, while water may contain minerals, water itself can't be a mineral because it's liquid.
2. Minerals are all naturally formed. This means they can't be

manufactured in a lab. Synthetic gems, like cubic zirconia, are therefore not minerals.

3. All minerals have a unique and specific chemical composition. This is like the DNA of the mineral - it's what makes the mineral different from other minerals.

4. Lastly, all minerals have a crystalline structure. Minerals are some of the most beautiful substances on Earth, because they are always arranged in an orderly geometric pattern. Minerals of the same type always have the same geometric arrangement of their atoms.

Properties of Minerals

Minerals are classified by their chemical composition and crystal structure. These two features occur on a microscopic level, but we can see them in other ways because they determine a mineral's observable physical properties. In other words, what appears to us on the outside is determined by what's on the inside.

The seven physical properties of minerals are:

- 1 Crystal form
- 2 Hardness (The Mohs scale of mineral Hardness)
- 3 Fracture or cleavage
- 4 Luster
- 5 Color
- 6 Streak
- 7 Density

Let's see how each one helps identify a mineral.

Crystal form is the outward expression of the orderly arrangement of atoms inside the mineral. What you are seeing is the actual arrangement and structure of the atoms in that mineral. For example, look at some everyday table salt, which is a combination of sodium and chlorine. Normally, what you see is a salt cube, but if you were to break this cube down into smaller parts, it would simply break into smaller and smaller cubes because that is how the atoms are arranged.

Hardness is how resistant a mineral is to scratching, not how easily it breaks. Hardness depends on the bonds within the mineral, so the stronger the bonds, the harder the mineral. Mineral hardness is measured on the Mohs scale of hardness, which compares the hardness of different minerals.

Diamond is considered the hardest mineral, so it's a 10 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Talc has a very weak bond between its atoms, and so it's a 1 on the Mohs scale of hardness.

Fracture and cleavage describe how a mineral breaks. Some minerals break very nicely along smooth planes, and this is called cleavage. Minerals that break this way do so because their atoms are arranged so that they break apart from each other along these planes. Mica is an example of a mineral that has cleavage. If a mineral fractures, it breaks in uneven ways that are not flat or parallel. Again, these minerals break like this because that's how their atoms are arranged.

Luster is how reflective a mineral is. Minerals are usually either classified as having metallic luster, which is very shiny or reflective, or non-metallic luster, which is not shiny and is very dull.

Reference: geologyin.com

SPRC Board Meeting
February 3, 2015
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:00; in attendance were Trina and Omid Aeen, Greg Langewisch, Ron Lawrence, Ron Rackliffe, Evelyn Velie, and Tina White.

Old Business

Ron L. expressed concern that the claim release on the Diablo Claim has been processed; it was agreed that someone will check with Mike Serino on this.

The Wire Wrapping session for February 4th was verified, but Ron L. shared that tour use of the room hadn't been on the schedule with Greenbrier management when he had checked; nor had any other SPRC events for 2015.

- It was agreed that Greenbrier staff had failed to transfer the ongoing reservations into the current calendar.
- Either the March or April meeting (Ron L. was unsure) will need to be rescheduled, as all appropriate rooms at the Clubhouse were otherwise booked.
- Ron L. stated that he will book the future wire wrapping sessions; Bruce Velie will be tasked with ensuring that all other events are so booked.

Along that same line, Greg L. appointed Bruce V. as Events Coordinator, to be responsible for planning/coordinating events other than business meetings. As the Velies will be unable to attend the March event, Bruce V. is to coordinate with Tina W. for that event.

New Business

Greg introduced the issue of allowing only members to attend workshops and wire-wrapping sessions. Our Bylaws and the regulations governing our tax-exempt status may cover this issue; a number of those present will review those documents for information.

The club's supply of howlite slabs was discussed; opinions varied from there being none on-hand to there being numerous small pieces available.

Confusion over some members' dues payment was discussed; that will be followed up on by those involved (Ron R. and Heidi W.)

Ron R. introduced the issue of the Club's sales tax payments on proceeds from sales; it was agreed that if the minimum payment of approximately \$100 will cover us without extensive additional documentation, we will continue with that strategy.

Evelyn V. asked for clarification on what Greg L. means by "interactive" programs; the group discussed various options and approaches Evelyn might pursue. One specific idea, having someone from the BLM come speak to us about Wilderness Areas, will be pursued.

The planned February field trip to the Strawberry Onyx was discussed at length. Given that access to the parking area requires high clearance and, most likely, 4WD, this may not be a viable field trip destination, as to the best of everyone's knowledge, there is only one (1) 4WD vehicle available for that trip. That decision will be made in advance of the scheduled field trip date, and an alternate destination announced.

Ron R. brought to the group's attention that a large number of members from last year have yet to pay their 2015 dues. Tina W. will send out a group reminder on this topic.

Ron R. then shared the Treasurer's Report, and from that the question of exactly what the CFMS insurance covers for the \$6 per member per year. Ron R. will follow up.

Ron L. inquired about our tumbled stone and shell inventories. The quantity of stones on-hand was debated; Evelyn V. offered to take some to Bill W. for tumbling. As for shells, 2 bins remain.

Upcoming rock & mineral shows include Ventura's on March 7 - 9.

It was agreed that the winner(s) of the Rock Contests post-field trip will receive four (4) raffle tickets, those simply entering a rock will receive one (1) ticket.

Ron L. asked about inviting other clubs to join us on our field trips; as the information is now on our website, Ron will advise those other groups to review that listing and attend if they wish.

There may be an open inquiry about the group leading a Boy Scout troop on a trip to Gem Hill; Greg L. will investigate.

Ron L. will visit College of the Canyons and speak to faculty there about arranging for someone to speak to the Club about fossils before our March visit to Sharktooth Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

SPRC General Meeting
February 3, 2015
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

Greg Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m., and then led the group in a flag salute.

Greg shared with the group plans for these activities:

- Placerita Canyon Open House
- Dinner at Rattler's
- Lombardi's
- Holiday party
- BBQ/Picnic

Lapidary workshops will be held quarterly at the Webber's

Wire wrapping will be held quarterly at the Greenbrier Clubhouse

Greg has also identified some future locations for field trips, including:

- Tonopah (turquoise, wonderstone)
- Phelen (wonderstone)
- Davis Creek (obsidian)
- Clear Creek (plasma agate)
- Quartzsite
- South Cadys (Christmas Tree Agate)

Greg (a busy man, indeed) presented the 2015 Plan, which includes a quarterly calendar listing field trips, workshops, wire wrapping sessions, etc.

Quarter 1 was shared with members

Quarter 2 will be published in February or March

Field Trips

January: 24th to Ballarat

- Formerly required a 3 mile hike through chaparral and rock falls; now they've found a more accessible area w/in 100-200 yards of the car park
- Trip will collect Diablo Onyx, Ball Marble, and White Honey Onyx.
- Leave Mammoth Lane at Soledad Canyon at 7:00 a.m.; high-clearance advised

February: Strawberry Onyx; involves > 2 mile hike and 4WD vehicles for access

March: Sharktooth Hill; approx. \$40 for ½ day

Later trips will include Clear Creek, So. Cady's

Greg shared future meeting activities:

- Rock raffle tickets
- Silent auction
- Best Rock Contest after each field trip (rough and worked classes)

The group still needs a Field Trip Chairperson; Ron Lawrence would prefer not to have that responsibility.

That individual should be available to attend the business meeting; held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., here at the Greenbrier Clubhouse.

Reminder that the Stoddard Wells event in March includes 2 field trips

Members are encouraged to buy SPRC tees and hats

Dues are due by the end of January; please get your payment to Treasurer Ron Rackliffe a.s.a.p.

The official meeting was adjourned at 8:09, followed by a slide show of 2014 field trips and events, along with "Happy 2015, SPRC!" chocolate AND carrot cakes from Porto's.