

The Sierra Pelonaagram



January 2010

... 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.

Update on Our New Claim

Diane Southwell sent in all the paperwork last month to establish our new claim near Trona. We are waiting to hear if there is anything else we need to do.

Stay Tuned...

For Bonnie's announcement of a weekday field trip the Natural History Museum's Gem Rooms. Date and time will be sent via email.

Howlite

Frank Humelbaugh took home over 1000# of howlite when the storage location was moved. He scrubbed and cleaned all of it. He reports that about ½ is nice and useable and the rest is plain white with little vein. We all agreed that those pieces may be better if cut to see if there are more veins inside.

Welcome to new members Barbara Cottage and Austin Williams who joined as a Pebble Pup.

Thanks!

Bill wishes to extend a special Thank You to all outgoing officers and committee chairpersons. The job you do is important and your involvement helps keep the club strong. He also encourages everyone not to hesitate in becoming involved—you just never know how much you will enjoy the experience.

Thanks again for many jobs well done!

January Birthdays:

David Burkhead
Bonnell Forstner
Earl Kangas
Debbie Meredith
Martin Schreiner
Barbara Shaffer
Quinn Shaffer
Austin Williams



Happy Birthday Everyone!

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 Strathman
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

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



A Message from the President Bill Webber

This is the start of a new era at the Sierra Pelona Rock Club. I have become the new president and I hope to do you proud. I have never served in this capacity before, so please, I need all of you to have my back so that we can continue to grow and be proud of our club. As you can see in the minutes, Bonnie will be the Field Trip chair (with Ron behind her all the way) so we can continue to have monthly outings to interesting places. Earl Kangas is returning as Webmaster and Ron Strathmann is the vice-president and Nancy Hilliard is our secretary. Many of the committee chairs are continuing in their capacity and we have several others who

have stepped up to fill in vacancies. Thanks to all of you; this involvement is what makes our club strong. We have a lot to look forward to in the coming year.

January's Birthstone

The gemstone Garnet is the official birthstone for January as adopted by the American National Association of Jewelers in 1912. It is also the stone for the Zodiac sign Aquarius. Garnet may be given as a gem on the 2nd and 6th wedding anniversary.

Garnet occurs in every color except blue and most varieties are named for their color. Rhodolite is a purplish red, hessonite is the name for an orange, cinnamon, or pinkish variety. Tsavorite is the name given to dark green grossularite. Uvarovite and demantoid are also green varieties.

Pyrope garnets are purplish red, orangey red, crimson, or dark red. Spessartite garnets range from yellow and orange through red to reddish brown to dark black/brown. Color change garnets exhibit a

“alexandrite-like” effect when viewed in natural light or artificial lighting.

Garnets range from a 7.0 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness and are found in the U.S. (Arizona), South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Myanmar (Burma), Scotland, Switzerland and Tanzania . Garnets are formed when high temperatures and/or pressure is a factor and geologists often use garnets as a gauge of the amount of temperature and pressure that was present during their formation.

Garnet's powers include healing, strength, and protection and it is often worn to relieve inflammations of the skin. It is also believed to regulate the heart and blood flow and aid in curing depression. In earlier times, garnets were exchanged as gifts between friends to demonstrate their affection for each other and to insure that they meet again.

Reference: Bernadine.com



**SIERRA PELONA ROCK CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING
GREENHOUSE CAFÉ
1/05/2010**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45.

We discussed open positions for the board and committee chairs, as many of the positions had become vacant for the New Year. The following people have volunteered as this years new or continuing Officers:

Bill Webber is the President.
Ron Strathmann is the Vice – President
Nancy Hilliard is the Secretary
Greg Mazourek will remain as Treasurer
Shep Koss will remain as CFMS/ AFMS Director
Heidi Webber will remain as the Pelonogram editor.
Mike Serino is the new Claims Chairman
Al Brown will remain as the Chairman for the Donation Rock Table
Bonnell Forstner is the new Field Trip Chairwoman, with Ron Lawrence.
Frank Humelbaugh will remain as the Historian Chairman
Evelyn Velie is the new Hospitality and Sunshine Chairwoman
Mike Serino will remain as the Program director
Diane Suthwell will remain as the Publicity Chairwoman
Mike Marino will remain as the Storage Chairman
Earl Kangas is the new Web Site Chairman

Congratulations all new and returning Officers! We are very grateful for you stepping up and donating your time and effort! We will affirm their positions at the next general meeting on 1/19/2010!

Mike Serino has a possible new upcoming Power point program about the 'Gems and Minerals of the Mojave' with a guest speaker, complete with collecting spots and aerial photos and maps.

Greg Mazourek has a program for 'unnatural stones' and what people do to gems to change them.

Earl Kangas has organized an impromptu field trip this Friday to Agua Dulce for Geodes – meet at Mammoth at 12:00 for an afternoon trip.

New members voted in: Barbara Cottage and pebble pup Austin Williams! Austin will be celebrating his Birthday with us during the next general meeting!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUSTIN!!

Frank Humebaugh loaded all the Howlite during our recent move to our new storage unit and reports he has since cleaned all 1000 lbs of it. Quite a lot of it may be of poor quality and the club should be on the lookout for other sources.

New possible trips discussed- overnight trip; possible gold panning; Ant hill; Natural History museum; other places scouted out by our new field trip chair, Bonnie and Ron! Bring any suggestions for trips to the general meeting. We will try to have more 'during the week' trips this year.

Greg Mazourek states the club finances are fine and submitted the December statement. Dues for the Federation insurance are due soon. Mike Serino will perform an Audit soon.

It was suggested that the club T-shirts be redesigned with new colors and styles. Suggestions welcomed at the General meeting.

Membership dues are due!!

We need oil for the saws, and a new motor for the 24-inch saw.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm

A Field Trip with Del Air Rockhounds

Where: Santa Barbara (Refugio, Gaviota and El Capitan State Beaches)

When: January 23

Our Hosts: Del Air Rockhounds

Location: Start at Refugio SB, located 20 miles west of Santa Barbara on Hwy 101 at Refugio Road.

Trip Leader: Jon Meredith (Meredith@flasercrew.net)

Materials Available: Fossil Whale bone, chert, fossil horse teeth, agates and jasper.

Parking Fees: \$8 per vehicle, fee good for all locations visited on the same day.

There are public restrooms at all sites, changing rooms at Refugio and beach showers at all sites.

Bring water, shoes, sandals or old sneakers, old clothes, dry clothes and a towel or two, a variety of warm garments as temperatures could be anywhere from 45 to 75. Citrus-based hand cleaner for tar removal (there are natural seeps in the Santa Barbara Channel), and food and beverages as the mini-marts are closed in winter.

The day will start at Refugio State Beach at approximately 9am. With low tide at 10:34am, this will give us about 1.5 hours of collecting time before moving to Gaviota or El Capitan for the low tide period. Refugio has rock beds which are exposed during mean tide periods where whale bone can be found. This can be quite an eventful trip, depending on weather, wildlife, civilians encountered. In January 2006, we collected over 200# of bone as a group.

Participants will be required to sign a waiver for the Del Air Rockhounds.

Note: These beaches were on the closure list for budgetary reasons earlier this year, so access may be limited in the future.

Moss Agate



Moss agate (also called **mocha stone**) is a semi-precious gemstone formed from silicon dioxide. This mineral is commonly found in limestone and granite. It is a form of agate which includes minerals of a green color embedded in the chalcedony, forming filaments and other patterns suggestive of moss. It also sometimes resembles blue-cheese. The field is a clear or milky-white quartz, and the included minerals are mainly oxides of manganese or iron. Moss agate is of the white variety with green inclusions that resemble moss. It occurs in many locations. The colors are formed due to trace amounts of metal present as an impurity, such as chrome or iron. The metals can make different colors depending on their valence.

Despite its name, moss agate does not contain organic matter and is usually formed from weathered volcanic rocks.

Montana moss agate is an agate found in the alluvial gravels of the Yellowstone River and its tributaries between Sidney and Billings, Montana. The agate originally was formed in the Yellowstone National Park area of Wyoming as a result of volcanic activity. In Montana moss agate the red color is the result of iron oxide and the black color is the result of manganese oxide.

Reference: Wikipedia

Upcoming CFMS Events

February 12-21, 2010, Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Gem & Mineral Building Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674
Email: 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.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 Thornton Avenue, Newark, CA 94560
Hours: Fri & Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
Lary Ham (510) 887-9007
Email: showchair@mgscv.org
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 6-7 2010, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
301 Baldwin Ave.
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
Email: vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
Website: 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
Website: 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

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

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
Website: 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
Website: 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

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
Website: 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
Website: 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
Website: www.lemooregems.org

Geode Hunting

On Friday the 8th of January, a group of us met to go to Acton to do some geode collecting. It was a gorgeous day—you know, the one that you love to brag about to your miserable snowed-in friends and family back east—and the company was good. Earl Kangas arranged for the outing and we climbed a mountain near Darling Road. We found many fractured geodes and maybe a complete one or two. How can you not have a great time on a day like that!? Thanks Earl.



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