

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



June 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.



### Message from the President

Summer is here and most of us are making plans to get out of town. Or not. Regardless, I hope that whatever your plans are, you and your families are safe and happy.

A lot has happened since the May issue of the Pelonagram was sent out. One of our members, Diana Bellas, passed away suddenly. Our sympathies are with her husband Pete and her family.

We took a trip to the new claim and got loads of beautiful onyx to slab and tumble. We had our end-of-year picnic. Around 35 people attended and a great time was had by all. Good friends and good food; that is what it is all about.

On that note my friends, I hope to see all of you at the next general meeting in September. We will have a planning meeting in July and anyone who is of mind is welcome to attend.

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you in the fall.

Bill Webber  
President, SPRC

### Business Planning Meeting

While the rest of the club is doing their summer thing, the board and committee members will have a planning meeting on July 6 at 6:30. This is where we chart our goals for the following year. All members are welcome to attend. Instead of the Green House Café on Bouquet Canyon Road, we will cross the street to El Presidente and have our dinner and meeting on the patio.

### The Pelonagram is off for the Summer

Like many members, the Pelonagram is taking the rest of the summer off. We will return with the September issue, so have a great summer and we will see you in September.



### 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](mailto:hwebber@pacbell.net)

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

## June Field Trip with Bonnie and Ron

Hi Everyone,

Ron and I have confirmation for the field trip to the Cryo-Genie mine in Warner Springs for Sunday, June 27th. I talked with Dana at the mine and he will give us a tour of the mine and has an exposed pocket so we can see crystals and tourmaline in its natural setting. He is also giving us a good price of \$30.00 per person for the day. Hours will be 10 to 4, so that should be plenty of time to find some good stuff. I've talked to several people about the mine and they have been happy with what they found. It should be a fun trip; a new place to try and the price is right.

Bring a lunch, water, and plenty of sun screen as it will be warm. Also bring a camp chair if you wish, a sifting screen (finely textured holes) and all your tools, as none will be provided. Hopefully by then, we will have our new club tee shirts and hats to wear, to show off our club spirit!

We will meet at the park and ride off the 14, at Newhall Rd, (old San Fernando exit) at 7am and we will car pool from there.

I need to know who would like to go, so I can let Dana know. If we have enough people, he will close it for us. My e-mail is [Sunandhorselover@aol.com](mailto:Sunandhorselover@aol.com).

We hope you can make it!

Ron Lawrence  
Bonnie Forstner  
Co-field trip chair  
S.P.R.C.

## Earl's Notes:

The club is making a lot of progress in reviewing and updating our records system. Thanks to **Bill & Heidi Webber**, who offered their home as a meeting place to process many of the records. **Bill, Heidi, Ron Strathmann, Colleen Clough, Diane Southwell, and Earl Kangas** did the work; it was fun, very interesting, and we had some laughs too. We're still going over more of the records, and another old records party may be coming up soon.

## Lilac Festival Booth

The club is planning to have a booth at the Lilac Festival in Frazier Park, which runs from August 6-8. Naturally, we will need booth coverage. Bill and I plan to be there a good part of the time and it would be great if there was a good turnout from the club. This is intended to be a fund-raising event, and as Shep says, we won't be in competition with any other similar clubs, so it could be great for our purposes. For more information, go to their website at <http://www.frazierfiestadays.com/>.



## Diablo Onyx Field Trip

On May 15 a group of us headed out to our new claim near Panamint Valley. Paul Kinney had his power tools and generator with him as we needed to saw down from the cap to access the onyx—a beautiful wide and deep vein of blues and greens and oranges. It was hard and dusty labor but the men were up to it. Another bonus to the claim is the huge cement slab from previous commercial mining that will be great for over-night trips as it is so perfectly flat and easily accessible. Future trips are in the works, so stay tuned.

### **Business Meeting on June 1st:**

**Vice President, Ron Strathmann**, presided in place of vacationing president, Bill Webber. Diane Southwell reported that nothing new is happening with the issues with the BLM on our new claim; she is still waiting for a response from the BLM.

**Field trip co-chairman, Ron Lawrence** reported that the Rockatomics Gem & Mineral club will be having a show this coming weekend - June 4th, 5th, and 6th. Ron said it should be a pretty good show. Ron also reported there would be a CFMS tourmaline field trip on the 26th & 27th. There was a lot of general discussion on future field trips including SPRC field trips to the tourmaline mines, costs, and what might be found. Greg Mazourek summed it up by saying what you find at the tourmaline mines is a matter of cost and luck. There were also some requests for a beach field trip during the hot summer months.

**Earl Kangas** mentioned SPRC approved a trip to the Frazier Mountain Memories Festival in August, but nothing could be found on the web concerning the festival. Also, he asked about to whom should the deposits be paid to, how the setup worked there, etc. Nobody had an answer to the questions. Ron Strathmann asked about who would be in charge of this, but nobody knew. It was decided to put off any decisions on this until the Planning Meeting in July, and perhaps someone should contact Shep Koss about this matter. *(Note from the editor: I have printed out the applications and am in contact with Shep about this. Heidi)*

**Greg Mazourek** moved that we should give some kind of reward to **Ruth Hidalgo** and **Paul Kinney** for all their help with supplying heavy equipment to enhance our claims. The motion was seconded, and after much discussion, it was decided that Ruth and Paul would be awarded one of the club's new polo shirts each. The motion was approved.

**Mike Serino** asked if we could put copies of our Pelonagram on our web site. Earl has tried to find a way to do so, but it would mean the PDF files would have to be accessed from Earl's computer, and Earl does not want to have anyone accessing a file on his computer.

**Ron Lawrence** reported the Girl Scouts would like to have a field trip to Ant Hill in either September or October of 2011, and they need an answer by June 15, 2010 so they can do some advance planning. A tentative date in October, 2011 was set.

**Evelyn Velie** reported on the meal and supplies planning for the picnic on June 12th. Evelyn asked for a head count on people who are bringing things for the picnic. A discussion followed about an estimate of the number of people who might be at the picnic, and the figure was 30 to 40.

**Earl Kangas** reported all Club records do not have to be kept permanently. Further, he reported that electronic records such as on a computer, CD, or DVD are acceptable in place of paper so long as the records can be converted to a printed paper form which governmental entities would use in the event of any issues. All legal, and founding documents would be kept in paper and electronic forms. **Greg Mazourek** made a motion we convert all paper documents to DVD's (except as noted above), but the motion was not seconded. It was decided to obtain all remaining records in storage, examine them, and then decide what to do. Motion was tabled until later.

**Diane Southwell** reported that BLM says they purge most of their records after 10 years, and claim visit slips don't need to be kept that long.

**Ron Lawrence** gave **Earl Kangas** the key to our storage area along with the entry code to the gate at the storage facility. Ron kept a copy of the gate codes. It was decided to wait until after the picnic on the 12th before we go to the storage facility to get the rest of the old records.

**Mike Serino** said the September, 2010 meeting would be "Show & Tell", our traditional September meeting format.

**Ron Strathmann** reported that Steve Hobbs paid his membership dues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM



### End-of-Year Picnic

It was a beautiful sunny and blustery day at Meadows Park on the 12<sup>th</sup>. By blustery, I really mean “batten down the hatches” as the nice cool breeze kept trying to blow container lids, paper goods and such off the table. Mind you, this isn’t a complaint as this helped to make the day such a pleasant one. About 35 people joined together for some great pot luck foodage and the wonderful company of friends.

Bill held a short meeting before we hit the banquet table. Greg told us that the new paperwork for the Diablo Onyx claim has been approved and that should be the end of that—unless it isn’t. Stay tuned. There will also be a planning meeting on July 6 at 6:30 at El Presidente restaurant. We will try for the patio. Anyone is welcome to join us.

As we were all sitting around in the shade, stuffed with spaghetti, chicken, chili, various salads and desserts, Greg was once again commissioned to auction off the goodies at the White Elephant table, which was loaded with all sorts of cast-offs (remember, “another man’s treasure...”). All I can say is thank goodness Deanna Cattermole bid \$5 on the 40” round yarn-art hanging of a crane that I have been trying to unload at various auctions for the last couple of years. Now she can figure out what to do with it!

After the auction, we played a few games of bingo—always great fun, especially for the winners.

With that, we packed up our gear, scouted the grounds for any trash that might have escaped us and headed for home.

Evelyn Velie did a fantastic job of coordinating this years event and we wish to extend a heart-felt Thank You for all her hard work.

See you in September!



## CFMS Shows

### June 18-20 2010, Whittier, CA

AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention  
Hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society  
So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus  
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974  
Email: [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.nocgms.com](http://www.nocgms.com)

### June 19-20 2010, Cayucos, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club  
Cayucos Vets Hall (next to Cayucos Pier)  
10 Cayucos Drive  
Hours: 9-5 Daily  
Mike Lyons (805) 610-0757  
Email: [jadestar@charter.net](mailto:jadestar@charter.net)  
Website: <http://www.slogem.org/>

### July 10-11 19-20 2010, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5  
Robert Thirlaway (310) 213-7677  
Email: [thirlawr@earthlink.net](mailto:thirlawr@earthlink.net)  
Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>

### August 6, 7 & 8 2010, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Ave.  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788  
Email: [Rocks4u@prodigy.net](mailto:Rocks4u@prodigy.net)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

### August 7 & 8 2010, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
San Francisco Co. Fair Bldg. (Hall of Flowers)  
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5  
Carleen Mont-Eton (415) 564-4230  
Email: [publicity@show.sfgms.org](mailto:publicity@show.sfgms.org)  
Website: [www.sfgms.org](http://www.sfgms.org)

### August 21-22 2010, Orangevale, CA

Treasure Trove of Gems  
Orangevale Community Center  
6826 Hazel Ave.  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5  
Admission: \$4 per day or \$6 for weekend -  
Children under 12 yrs. free with adult  
John Moulder (916) 290-3193  
Email: [info@treasuretroveofgems.com](mailto:info@treasuretroveofgems.com)  
Website: [www.treasuretroveofgems.com](http://www.treasuretroveofgems.com)

## Birthdays for June, July and August

Connie Flores-Reisbeck, June 2  
Janelle Williams, June 3  
Carole Degenfelder, June 7  
Paul Hobbs, June 11  
Heidi Webber, June 10  
Akiko Strathmann, June 25  
Paul Real, June 30  
DJ Gervais, July 5  
Jeannine Kenney, July 24  
Phil Rizzo, July 24  
Charles Ferguson, July 31  
Ralph Hyde, August 3  
Ron Lawrence, August 12  
Karen Kubota, August 19  
Jennie Real, August 25  
Vlad Litt, August 31



## Condolences

We wish to extend our sympathies to Peter Bellas on the sudden passing of his wife Diana on May 18, 2010. They have only been with the club for a few months.



## Some (Hopefully) Helpful Tips on Rock Tumbling

- Add a table spoon of sugar to the final polish stage for that extra gleam to your finished stones.
- Dip your stones in super glue and allow to set solid before starting out - this will fill any cracks or crevices and help prevent grits from passing onto the next phase.
- A syringe is useful for oiling the bushes on the tumbler - you can avoid applying too much and having oil splash all over the place when you restart.
- To prevent the stones from slipping during phase 2 and 3, stick small pieces of tough rubber to the inside of the barrel, this helps to trip them as they turn and prevents flats from forming.

## May's General Meeting

It was a great event for many of us at the May General Meeting. Evelyn Velie is certified GIA and pearls are her passion. She presented a PowerPoint show on pearls and afterward we saw many of her displays of pearls. As requested, we brought our pearls from home for her to examine. At least one of us discovered that the nice string of "faux pearls" languishing in her jewelry box at home now needs to be professionally appraised and insurance coverage obtained. Evelyn is preparing a presentation on diamonds for a future meeting. Thank you Evelyn!!!

## June

### Pearl and Alexandrite



June counts three gems as birthstones, pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as *the pearl age*. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.



### Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, *Alexandrite*, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.)

### Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the *Moonstone*. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called *adularescence*) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called *feldspar*, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

### July Ruby



There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species *corundum*. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

### August Peridot



Two birthstones are available for August birthdays: *Peridot* and *Sardonyx*.

**Peridot** is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.

**Sardonyx** is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It

was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world. The most attractive specimens are found in India, but material also is mined in Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, and in the United States.

Reference: American Gem Society <http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones>

## Dendrites



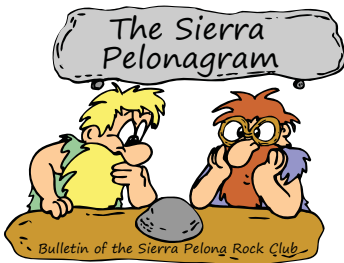
Dendrites - crystalline, black, fern-like patterns that resemble forest scenes - have captured the fancy of collectors for centuries. Dendrites produce an amazing original work of art by Mother Nature.

You may have heard the term dendrite or more likely the adjective, dendritic, used when describing a gemstone and wondered exactly what it was. They are attractive patterns, usually black or dark brown that are seen in many types of gemstone material. They are most often associated with agates but are sometimes found in quartz, opal, limestone and other stones. They are sometimes called picture stone or painted stone. The patterns occur naturally due to the presence of iron and manganese oxides. Dendrites are the branch-like formations of manganese oxide crystallizing within the stone.

Metaphysically, these mineral dendrites symbolize growth or change. The word *dendrite* comes from the Greek word for "tree" because a dendritic inclusion in a stone looks like a branching tree or at least like some type of plant life. They are often said to look like ferns or moss and many people mistakenly speculate that they are fossil imprints of moss. Actually dendrites are inclusions of manganese crystals.

They are formed when manganese-rich water seeps into tiny crevices in rocks and the manganese crystals are deposited in intricate branching patterns.

*Reference: Rockhound Ramblings June, 2010*



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