

The Sierra Pelona nagram



May 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.

Happy Birthday to all the Spring Babies!

	May	
Deb Clem		May 26
Kathleen Edwards		May 13
Greg Langewisch		May 24
Olivia Miseroy		May 5
Iony Panaitescu		May 5
Mike Serino		May 26
Donna Sweet		May 11



	June	
Connie Flores-Reisbeck		June 2
Paul Hobbs		June 11
Ron Strathmann		June 25
Heidi Webber		June 10
Janelle Williams		June 3



**Placerita Canyon Nature Center's
Open House**

The club had a great spot right on the steps of the nature center. Almost everyone who came to the event had to pass right by that very tempting Wheel. The club had a great turnout and it showed in our bottom line. Thanks so much, Bruce Velie for lining up members to man the tables.

Trina was able to break away for a bit to wander about and take some photos although there was much more to see than monkeys, hawks and reptiles—but they were pretty neat! Photo credit Trina Aeen.



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
 P.O. Box 221256
 Newhall, Ca. 91322**

Or e-mail: hwebber@pacbell.net

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



Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

With April in the books and May already in full swing we have a lot coming up. On Memorial Day weekend we are having our field trip to Clear Creek to collect some Plasma Agate, Serpentine and Jade. This is a beautiful area and some of us will be camping out or staying in a local hotel in order to get all of it in. There was an email sent out earlier in the month with more details about the field trip. This month's presentation will be about Clear Creek and the materials we can find there.

Our club workshop at the beginning of the month was a big success. There were a ton of members who showed up to work on the materials they've collected. There were even several "newbies" in the group who had never created anything with their rocks before. Each of them left with a new treasure to take home and cherish. As always, Heidi provided a fantastic lunch and Bill was busy as ever keeping the machines running for everyone. I'd like to extend a super big thanks to Bill and Heidi for hosting the event, once again. I know it is a tremendous amount of work to put one of these on and the club is very lucky to have members like them who will go through the effort to provide such a successful workshop.

We just got done having the clubs booth at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House. It was great seeing the members who came out to help and visit with each other. The wheel was constantly spinning throughout the day with dozens of wide-eyed children winning the awesome tumbled stones, toys and candy. I always love to see the enthusiasm the kids have for the tumbled stones. We all had a great time and made some money for

the club.

On Thursday, May 21st, we'll have our Q2 wire wrapping group meeting. This will be from 7-9 pm at the clubhouse. Members and guests of members are welcome to attend the group meeting. Visit the Facebook page to get additional info. I hope to see a bunch of us there.

I hope everyone has a great May and gets a chance to go out and collect some great material.

See you soon,

Greg Langewisch

Q2 Workshop

It was a perfect spring day to have a workshop at mine and Bill's home. Around 15 club members showed up starting at 10am to begin their cutting, grinding and polishing. Greg was great showing new members Therese Edwards and her children Olive and William how to use the machines. William made a fantastic first cab too!

After a lunch of grilled chicken (and black bean patties for the vegetarians), with all the fixings prepared by me, people started filtering out as they finished their project. It was a great day enjoyed with friends.



Hello Everyone,

As you probably know, this months field trip will be to Clear Creek to collect plasma agate, serpentine and jade. We will be having a presentation on the location and the types of materials that can be found there at our May general meeting.

However, if you plan on attending, you will need to get a permit online. Go to Recreation.gov and search for Clear Creek Management Area, CA. There are also maps to get there on the site.

The permit is good for 7 days which is good since there is a group of us planning on going up on Friday and camping out until Saturday or Sunday.

There are some cautions we must observe while in the area. Parts of the area are known for having asbestos. So, its important that you are aware of that. More information about that is contained on the website. This will be a fantastic field trip and one that I don't believe the club has ever been to before. So, I hope a bunch of you can make it.

The site states that there is ATV use. But I'm not familiar with where that is and you would need to get additional permits to use ATV's there. More info on that can be found on the permit page.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Greg



Congratulations to new, first-time Grand-parents, Trina and Omid Aeen. Allison Rose's parents are Candice and Alex Applegate.



Sierra Pelona Rock Club
General Meeting
Greenbriar Estates Clubhouse
April 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Yolanda Resnick was introduced to the club as our newest member. 20 members were in attendance, no guests.

Greg said that 15 people went to Shark Tooth Hill. He also said that the Spring Gala was well-attended. The April field trip will be to the North Edwards Claim and there will be a weenie roast. The Antelope Valley annual Rock and Mineral show will be the same day.

May 2 is the Q2 workshop at Bill and Heidi's from 10 until done. Lunch is \$5.

May 9 is the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House from 10-3. Need help with the booth—see Bruce Velie.

Wire wrap this month, the date Thursday May 21.

May 23, field trip to Clear Creek near Coalinga. You can gather plasma agate, jade, serpentine.

June 20 field trip will be to Moonstone Beach in the San Simeon area.

The Summer Picnic will be in June, replacing the General Meeting. The date TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 for Evelyn's program on chalcedony, agate and jasper.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Webber

SPRC Board Meeting
May 5, 2015
Greenbrier Estates Clubhouse

In attendance were Trina Aeen, Shep Koss, Greg Langewisch, Ron Ratcliffe, Evelyn Velie, Bruce Velie, Heidi Webber, and Tina White.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m. with a discussion of the revised roster (provided by Heidi, with updates still pending) and of those yet to pay their annual dues.

Old Business

Shep brought up the issue of whether or not SPRC ought to join ALAA (American Land Access Association) as urged by member Ruth Hidalgo. Our group's non-profit status was discussed, and it was agreed that membership in/support of non-partisan groups is permitted. (This discussion was resumed later in the meeting.)

May Field Trip to Clear Creek (near Coalinga)

- Memorial Day Weekend
- May's general membership meeting will feature a presentation - developed by Trina, delivered by Greg - on what may be collected there
- Attendees must register in advance, fee of \$5/car plus \$6 registration charge
- Greg will send out an informative email on 5/6

Greg asked that we again address the issue of non-members attending Club events. It was agreed that it will be Club policy that attendance at 1 event (workshop, wire-wrap, etc.) is acceptable prior to joining the Club so that prospective members may observe what the Club has to offer.

There followed another quick review of our insurance/liability/D&O insurance coverage.

Placerita Canyon Nature Center Open House

- Saturday, May 9th
- Bruce has been recruiting volunteers for 2 shifts; 9 – 12:30 and 12:30 – 4; there was something of an imbalance in the number of volunteers, which was remedied through discussion.
- Heidi will buy candy, Trina will order toys through Amazon Prime
- Bill W. will bring a Genie polisher, trim saw, and tumbler
- Greg will bring rough/slab/cab examples
- Greg and Tina will look for business cards to be distributed

Other Club Events:

- May 13th: Wire Wrap postponed; to be held at Greenbrier Clubhouse
- June 13th: Summer Picnic planned for 11:00 a.m., location TBD
- June 27th: Field Trip to Moonstone Beach (near Cambria)

Tina mentioned that she has been unable to open the Q2 Schedule sent out by Greg; Heidi expressed the same concern.

New Business

Bruce raised the issue of contacting those who attend a meeting and do not follow-up; Heidi shared that she already does so, if they have provided an email address.

Shep mentioned that the Federation Meeting in June is to be held in Lodi, and asked if anyone wants to attend in his stead; there were no takers.

Heidi shared that she can no longer copy the CFMS announcement into our newsletter; Trina suggested a technical option which Heidi will try.

Shep re-introduced the issue of SPRC's joining ALAA; there was much discussion both pro and con, but no decision was reached. Shep will verify that the annual fee for the Club would be \$50.

Shep also advised us that each club is allowed to nominate a Rockhounder of the Year through the Federation; after a brief discussion, it was generally agreed not to pursue this at this time.

Heidi expressed her concern about there being multiple formats of the Club's application form in use; it was agreed that the Board will review all forms in use at the next meeting, and agree upon one format.

Ron delivered the Treasurer's Report; we're still in the black!

I am always looking for something interesting to put in the Pelonagram and came across this website. The information is quite interesting, but it looks like it may not have been updated for many years, meaning the information regarding collecting status may not be accurate. However, if you are a collector, it is always worth a drive on a nice day into the desert to see what you can get.

Actinolite at Wrightwood

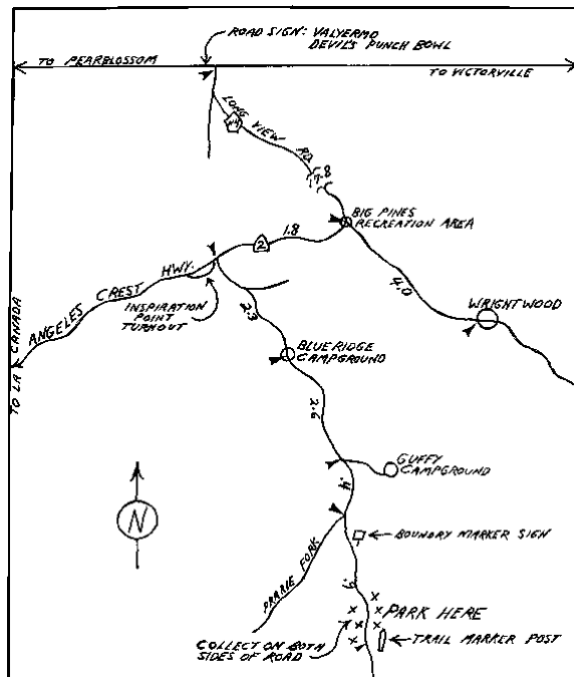
This is a good trip for the summer season as you will be high in the Angeles National Forest where it is always cool, even when the lower elevations are sweltering in a heat wave. During the winter, the ground is covered with snow much of the time, and it is unlikely much gem material can be found.

Type of material found: Actinolite

Description of material: Actinolite is an amphibole, and is colored a beautiful green due to the presence of lead in its chemical composition. It occurs here as fine, bright green crystal masses. Some single crystals of faceting grade may be found. This material is somewhat disguised and a piece which looks like a poor quality specimen on the outside can prove to be an exceptional piece when broken apart. Look for the rounded chunks of rock when distinguishing the actinolite from the ????? blocky pieces of gneiss that are found ????? in ????? The actinolite may also be found in ????? is usually ????? to recover these larger pieces. (The copy available for transcription was less than perfect.)

Equipment needed: Rock pick. Shovel and sledge hammer.

How to get there: Highway 138 leaves Pearblossom and heads east toward Victorville. Soon you will see a sign directing you toward Valyermo and Devil's Punchbowl. This highway is marked Longview Road. Turn right here and soon you will be winding up toward the tall timber country. As the road slowly ascends into the mountains, you soon leave the Joshua trees and before long you are surrounded by the big pine trees. At 17.8 miles you will be at Big Pines Recreation Area. Turn right and continue 1.8 miles. Turn onto the graded and oiled road at the eastern end of Inspiration Point turnout. (Keep in mind this was written in the mid-1980s and there may have been road changes.) Keep right at fork and continue 2.3 miles along the top of Blue Ridge to the Blueridge Campground. The road affords many breathtaking views of San Gabriel Canyon as it winds among the pines and you may be able to see Mt. Baldy in the distance. The road goes through Blueridge Campground and on 2.6 miles toward Guffy Camp. At the fork, stay to the right on the main road marked to Prairie Fork. Continue .4 mile and bear left on East Blueridge Rd. About .1 mile up this road a sign marks the boundaries of Angeles Forest and San Bernardino National Forest. Continue on another .8 mile to collecting area. There are good places to park here near a forestry trail marker. The actinolite is found scattered around the entire area on both sides of the road from the parking area. Large chunks of beautiful crystals can be found if one scouts the outlying ground. For the trip home, one can continue on Highway 2, Angeles Crest Highway, for a scenic trip through the pines and possibly snow, back to the San Fernando Valley or Azusa.



source: HighDesertInsider.com