

# The Sierra Pelonaagram



**November 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.

## CFMS Shows

**November 11-13:**

### SACRAMENTO, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society

Scottish Rite Temple

6151 H Street

Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun  
10 - 4

Contact: Stanley Henneman, (916)  
363-5011

Email: Lakota27@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.

sacramentomineralsociety.org

### November 12-13: YUBA CITY, CA

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral  
Society

Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds (Franklin  
Hall)

442 Franklin Ave.

Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4

Contact: Erik Anspaugh, (916)567-  
9750

Email: rocks@hughes.net

Website: www.sutterbuttes.net

### November 19-20: OXNARD, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

800 Hobson Way

Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Norb Kinsler, (805) 644-  
6450

Email: show\_info@oxnardgem.  
com

Website: www.oxnardgem.com

DECEMBER 2011

### December 3-4: BARSTOW, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral  
Society

Barstow Community Center

841 S. Barstow Road

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Gene Haines, (760) 256-  
0595

Email: vhaines@san.rr.com

Website: www.mdgms.org

Greg Mazourek will be ordering more club shirts in the near future. The club shirt color is teal blue and styles are regular T, tank (for women) and Polo shirts. Contact Greg if you wish to place an order.



## November Birthdays

George Bryson

Barbara Farrar

Frank Humelbaugh

### 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 - Akiko Strathmann

Field Trips – Open

Historian - Frank Humelbaugh

Hospitality – Evelyn Velie

Membership – Ron & Akiko Strathman

Programs – Open

Publicity – Open

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/>



### President's Message

On the day of last month's General Meeting, we learned the sad news that long-time member, Al Brown had died. He had resigned from the club a few weeks earlier, stating health reasons. I had the bittersweet pleasure of meeting his family, who

came to Santa Clarita to take care of Al's affairs. They donated, in his memory, all of his rock collection and equipment, along with a lot of other items for the club to use or dispose of as we wish. Elsewhere in this issue is an essay written by his family.

Elections for new officers will be held in December. Nominees will be announced at the November general meeting. I will be ending my term in office as president and passing the torch onto our new president at the January business meeting. At the November general meeting you will also have the opportunity to clarify a portion of our bylaws that we realized was quite ambivalent. Please attend and cast your vote—this IS your club, after all. It can only be as good as its members.

With the holidays rapidly approaching, our lives are getting

busier and busier. While this is normally a happy family time, in reality it can be very stressful for many reasons. So try to unwind a bit. Take a hike—in the desert—with Ron Lawrence—and relax under the wide open skies with loads of interesting material right under your feet. You will have a wonderful day with wonderful people, good exercise, fresh air and some new treasures to show for your efforts. How can anyone come back stressed after a day like that? And it is cheap too! So join Ron and the rest of us on this month's trip to Stoddard Wells for green marble. It isn't far and carpooling is available. Watch for Ron's email with more detail. And RELAX!

Bill Webber  
President, SPRC



### To All Members

You will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed change in the Club's bylaws at the November 15th general meeting. Since there are three options, a ballot will be provided at the meeting.

At the Club's general meeting held on October 18, 2011, a proposal to amend the Sierra Pelona Rock Club's bylaws was read in compliance with Article 11 of said bylaws. You are receiving this E-mail in compliance with the notification requirements stated in Article 11 of the Club's bylaws.

### Summary of the reading at the October 18, 2011 general meeting:

#### Current conditions:

Currently, people who are interested in being an officer or director of the Club are told that the term is for two (2) years, but there is nothing in the bylaws that specifies the length of term for officers or directors. Some members feel that a two-year term is too long a commitment, and would rather see a one-year commitment instead.

#### The proposal asks members to vote for ONE of the following:

- A. Each elected officer and director shall hold office for one year beginning on the first day of the month following election. Each shall be eligible to succeed himself / herself, or to be elected to a different office in the Club.
- B. Each elected officer and director shall hold office for two years beginning on the first day of the month following election. Each shall be eligible to succeed himself / herself, or to be elected to a different office in the Club.
- C. Do not change the bylaws.

#### Reasons and rationale for this proposal:

Specific length of terms could make the difference as to whether a member wants to be an officer or director. There have been occasions where it has been difficult to find members who would be willing to serve as an officer or director for a two-year term. It would be easier to find candidates to serve if the term was one year instead of two.

## SPRC Business Meeting

November 1, 2011

Greenhouse Café, Saugus

The November meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. In attendance was Martin Schreiner, Frank Hummelbaugh, Connie Flores-Reisbeck, Janelle Williams, D.J. Gervais, Ron Lawrence, Mike Serino, Shep Koss, Greg Mazourek, Evelyn Velie, Greg and Morgan Langewisch, Dianne Southwell, Bob Caudhill, Karen Kubota, Ron and Akiko Strathmann, and Bill and Heidi Webber.

**Treasury Report:** Greg sent out non-profit paperwork, the check hasn't been cashed yet. The club did very well at Lombardi's.

**CFMS Director:** Shep said the next Federation meeting will be November 12. He also would like the club to join ALAA-American Land Access-giving us access to public land. The cost is less than \$20 per year for the entire club.

**Field Chair:** Ron L said that the trip to gather Ballarat Marble was a successful trip. 17 people went and 10 people made it completely over the rough and steep terrain all the way (several waterfalls involved). The next field trip will be Saturday Nov. 19 to Stoddard Wells for green marble. Vehicles need to be high clearance or 4x4. He will send a broadcast email with more detail as the date approaches.

**Claim Chair:** Mike S said we need to go out to the new onyx claim to set corners. This will be a weekday work trip, not a collecting trip. Janelle, DJ, Ron, Mike, Shep, Bill, Diane, Ruth and Paul will be going. Changes go to the Inyo County recorder for approval and then to Sacramento. Diane will bring all the paperwork as they will be passing the office on the way. Shep will keep an eye on weather reports as the trip will be called if rain is forecast. Otherwise, they will meet at Mammoth at 8am or Rosamond at 9am on Thursday, November 10.

**Elections Chair:** Akiko and Diane said that the nominees are Heidi (Secretary), Janelle (VP) (Bill W will be nominated from the floor), Ron L (Pres) Shep (CFMS Director) with Frank H as alternate, Greg M (Treasurer).

**Holiday Dinner:** Evelyn—December 18 beginning at 11a.m. at the Clubhouse. There will be a sign-up sheet at the General Meeting in November as the dinner will be mostly potluck. Everyone brings drinks. Club will provide water and coffee, turkey and ham, and all paper and utensils. Evelyn will not be attending the dinner and will drop off supplies to either Ron L or Heidi.

**White Elephant Auction:** We have a lot of things from Al that will be on auction. Members are asked to donate good stuff for the auction also. Greg will be our auctioneer as usual just because he is so good at it. **Motion: Club buys a meat dish, all approved. Heidi will buy Turkey and Ham and prepare.**

**Facebook:** Greg L. is doing well with the site but he said he would like more members to post pictures and comments. If you search for Sierra Pelona Rock Club on Facebook, and then "Like" the page, you will get updates on your home page, or "wall".

**Membership:** Ron S. said that two people came to the last meeting, but didn't leave an application.

**Donation:** Al Brown's family donated a lot of his stuff to the club. Much will be at the white elephant auction for the Holiday Dinner. All his rock supplies and equipment was donated too. Right now everything is at Bill's house. Nancy Hilliard has offered her garage on Sierra Highway to set up a club shop with our equipment. A committee consisting of Janelle, Bob and Bill will check out the location in regards to power abilities, security, and general feasibility by the December Business Meeting.

**Earl** sent an email on changes in the Bylaws he would like to see. Ron Strathmann handed out copies. Earl also had brought up at the previous General Meeting that the bylaws have some holes in them, including no stated term of office. Per the bylaws, because this was brought up at the meeting, a vote will be taken at the November General Meeting regarding the length of term of either 1 or 2 years. The rest of the suggestions will be held over until next year. There are extensive changes he would like to see. It was said that we need a smaller group to study and make recommendations. Ron L. said bylaws say how it has to be done by the book and that you cannot legally form a committee to change bylaws; that it all has to be gone through at a general meeting.

**Greg M** said we need to make another order for club shirts. He will inventory what we have. Heidi will put a notice in the Pelonagram so that people can order what they would like.

**Shep** informed us that Santa Barbara County Beaches have restrictions on collecting. No collecting other than photos and memories: no bone, shells, etc. The exception is you can collect 3 miles out from the mean high tide line.

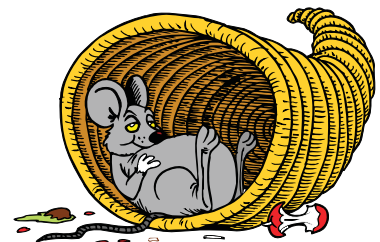
**Bob Caudill** requested that members bring him a sample from their outings as he is unable to participate at this time because of Barbara's ill health.

**Mike Moreno** is in the hospital again, but he is doing well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by Karen Kubota

Transcription by Heidi Webber





Al, SPRC Holiday Dinner, December 2009

### **In Memory of Al Brown**

Alfred Brown of Canyon Country passed away peacefully in early September 2011. He was 81 years old.

Al was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1930 to Joseph and Mary Brown. He was one of six children and is survived by one brother, Joseph Brown of Brooksville, Fla and one sister, Pamela Love of Brevard, N.C. along with many nieces and nephews.

Al was an Air Force veteran as an aircraft engine mechanic. After his service to our country, he worked in the airline industry until his retirement.

Al lived his life to the fullest and certainly did it his way. He loved scuba diving, fishing, gambling and was most passionate about rock hunting. He was a longtime member of the Sierra Pelona Rock Club.

Al was loved very much by his friends and family and he will be missed by us all.

### **Field trip to Ballarat, CA.**

*by Greg Langeswich*

On a beautiful Saturday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 about 17 club members and friends travelled out to the ghost town of Ballarat, CA. in search of the Ballarat marble. The small town of Ballarat consists of a general store, several decaying structures and a rusted out truck reportedly used by the infamous Manson family. For more information on Ballarat and its history, visit: <http://www.desertusa.com/mag99/apr/stories/ballarath.html>

After exploring the town we drove a mile or so through the desert and into a creek bed until a gate forced us to set out on foot. Initially the terrain was just sand and rock. But before

long we ran across a stream and the landscape became thick with desert vegetation. A few waterfalls added both beauty and an element of risk to our journey. The thick foliage, waterfalls and need to find alternate routes around the many obstacles made this an arduous journey. Unfortunately, not everyone who began with us made it to the collecting site. Fortunately, there were many collecting opportunities along the way as the ground (particularly in the creek where we parked) was covered with a variety of interesting stones.

For those who made it to the end, the final obstacle was a climb half way up the mountain where the marble vein was visible near the top. On the hillside were huge boulders where a hammer and chisel could extract nice pieces of the salmon-colored marble. Once the marble was collected all that was left was the journey back through the thick, thorny brush over the waterfalls and across the desert (while carrying the extra weight of the marble). We were met at the gate by several of our more patient members who stayed to see what we had collected.

Funny story...as we trudged through the thick bushes I remember saying out loud that we should have brought a machete along. On the hike back to the cars, we passed under a particularly thorny bush. Once I'd cleared the malevolent brush (receiving many scratches) and walked a ways, I heard Stephanie Holgren come up from behind. In her hand was a machete that she'd found around the thorny bush we had just passed under.

Many beautiful pieces of the marble were collected as well as various samples of other materials. All in all it was a fabulous day hiking through the desert doing what we love to do. Can't wait till the next trip!



## Limestone

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed primarily of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) in the form of the mineral calcite. It most commonly forms in clear, warm, shallow marine waters. It is usually an organic sedimentary rock that forms from the accumulation of shell, coral, algal and fecal debris. It can also be a chemical sedimentary rock formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate from lake or ocean water.

### Limestone-Forming Environment - Marine

Most limestones form in shallow, calm, warm marine waters. That type of environment is where organisms capable of forming calcium carbonate shells and skeletons can easily extract the needed ingredients from ocean water. When these animals die their shell and skeletal debris accumulate as a sediment that might be lithified into limestone. Their waste products

can also contribute to the sediment mass. Limestones formed from this type of sediment are biological sedimentary rocks. Their biological origin is often revealed in the rock by the presence of fossils.

Some limestones can form by direct precipitation of calcium carbonate from marine or fresh water. Limestones formed this way are chemical sedimentary rocks. They are thought to be less abundant than biological limestones.

Today Earth has many limestone-forming environments. Most of them are found in shallow water areas between 30 degrees north latitude and 30 degrees south latitude. Limestone is forming in the Caribbean Sea, Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Mexico, around Pacific Ocean islands and within the Indonesian archipelago. One of these areas is the Bahamas Platform, located in the Atlantic Ocean about 100 miles southeast of southern Florida (see satellite image at right). There abundant corals, shellfish, algae and other organisms produce vast amounts of calcium carbonate skeletal debris that completely blankets the platform. This is producing an extensive limestone deposit.

Limestone can also form through evaporation. Stalactites, stalagmites and other cave formations (often called “speleothems”) are examples of limestone that formed through evaporation. In a cave, droplets of water seeping down from above enter the cave through fractures or other pore spaces in the cave ceiling. There they might evaporate before falling to the cave floor. When the water evaporates, any calcium carbonate that was dissolved in the water will be deposited on the cave ceiling. Over time this evaporative process can result in an accumulation of icicle-shaped calcium carbonate on the cave ceiling. These deposits are known as stalactites. If the droplet falls to the floor and evaporates there a stalagmite could grow upwards from the cave floor.

The limestone that makes up these cave formations is known as “travertine” and is a chemical sedimentary rock. A rock known as “tufa” is a limestone formed by evaporation at a hot spring, lake shore, or other area.

### Composition of Limestone

Limestone is by definition a rock that contains at least 50% calcium carbonate in the form of calcite by weight.

All limestones contain at least a few percent other materials. These can be small particles of quartz, feldspar, clay minerals, pyrite, siderite and other minerals. It can also contain large nodules of chert, pyrite or siderite. The calcium carbonate content of limestone gives it a property that is often used in rock identification - it effervesces in contact with a cold solution of 5% hydrochloric acid.

### Varieties of Limestone

There are many different names used for limestone. These names are based upon how the rock formed, its appearance or its composition and other factors. Here are a few of the more commonly used.

**Chalk:** A soft limestone with a very fine texture that is usually white or light gray in color. It is formed mainly from the calcareous shell remains of microscopic marine organisms such as foraminifers or the calcareous remains from numerous types of marine algae.



*A drop of water hangs and evaporates on the tip of a stalactite. National Park Service image.*



*Coquina: This photo shows the shell hash known as coquina. The rock shown here is about two inches (five centimeters) across.*



*Chalk: A fine-grained, light-colored limestone formed from the calcium carbonate skeletal remains of tiny marine organisms.*

**Coquina:** A poorly-cemented limestone that is composed mainly of broken shell debris. It often forms on beaches where wave action segregates shell fragments of similar size.

**Fossiliferous Limestone:** A limestone that contains obvious and abundant fossils. These are normally shell and skeletal fossils of the organisms that produced the limestone.

**Lithographic Limestone:** A dense limestone with a very fine and very uniform grain size that occurs in thin beds that separate easily to form a very smooth surface. In the late 1700's a printing process (lithography) was developed to reproduce images by drawing them on the stone with an oil-based ink and then using that stone to press multiple copies of the image.

### Uses of Limestone

Limestone is a rock with an enormous diversity of uses. It could be the one rock that is used in more ways than any other. Most limestone is crushed and used as a construction material. It is used as a crushed stone for road base and railroad ballast. It is used as an aggregate in concrete. It is fired in a kiln with crushed shale to make cement.

Some varieties of limestone perform well in these uses because they are strong, dense rocks with few pore spaces. These properties enable them to stand up well to abrasion and freeze-thaw. Although limestone does not perform as well in these uses as some of the harder silicate rocks it is much easier to mine and does not exert the same level of wear on mining equipment, crushers, screens and the beds of the vehicles that transport it.

Some additional but also important uses of limestone include:

**Dimension Stone:** Limestone is often cut into blocks and slabs of specific dimensions for use in construction and in architecture. It is used for facing stone, floor tiles, stair treads, window sills and many other purposes.

**Roofing Granules:** Crushed to a fine particle size, crushed limestone is used as a weather and heat-resistant coating on asphalt impregnated shingles and roofing. It is also used as a top coat on built-up roofs.



**Flux Stone:** Crushed limestone is used in smelting and other metal refining processes. In the heat of smelting, limestone combines with impurities and can be removed from the process as a slag.

**Portland Cement:** Limestone is heated in a kiln with shale, sand and other materials and ground to a powder that will harden after being mixed with water.

**AgLime:** Calcium carbonate is one of the most cost-effective acid neutralizing agents. When crushed to sand-size or smaller particles limestone becomes an effective material for treating acidic soils. It is widely used on farms throughout the world.

**Lime:** If calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) is heated to high temperature in a kiln the products will be a release of carbon dioxide gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ ). The calcium oxide is a powerful acid neutralization agent. It is widely used as a soil treatment agent (faster acting than aglime) in agriculture and as an acid neutralization agent by the chemical industry.

**Animal Feed Filler:** Chickens need calcium carbonate to produce strong egg shells so calcium carbonate is often offered to them as a dietary supplement in the form of "chicken grits". It is also added to the feed of some dairy cattle who must replace large amounts of calcium lost when the animal is milked. Limestone has many other uses. Powdered limestone is used as a filler in paper, paint, rubber and plastics. Crushed limestone is used as a filter stone in on-site sewage disposal systems. Powdered limestone is also used as a sorbent (a substance that absorbs pollutants) at many coal-burning facilities.

Limestone is not found everywhere. It only occurs in areas underlain by sedimentary rocks. Limestone is needed in other areas and is so important that buyers will pay five times the value of the stone in delivery charges so that limestone can be used in their project or process.

Reference: *Geology.com*



**Tufa:** A porous limestone that forms from the precipitation of calcium carbonate, often at a hot spring or along the shoreline of a lake where waters are saturated with calcium carbonate.