

The Sierra Pelona nagram



December 2017

... 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.

SPRC Board Meeting

December 5, 2017
Greenbriar Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. In attendance were Ron Rackliffe, Trina, Heidi, Bruce and Kay.

The upcoming Holiday Party was discussed. There will be a White Elephant sale and a Silent Auction with items being accepted as only rock or holiday related. The time will be from 11-4pm and each member is entitled to bring a guest with additional guests charged a fee of \$5.

Seven new members were voted in with memberships effective as of January 1, 2018. Our new members are Michael Wertz, Margaret Stamboulian, Tim and Logan Gunter (Logan as Pebble Pup), and Jennifer Cox. (Michael's children were also voted in as Pebble Pups later via email vote--so welcome Nick and Samantha Wertz!).

Ron received our exemption letter from the Department of Justice so we don't need to file annually as fundraising being our main source of income and also makes us exempt from the \$25 annual fee.

Bruce: Evelyn would like to continue as the representative to the CFMS and also be Hospitality Chair for 2018 if elected by membership at the Holiday Party. The Hospitality Chair position is appointed by the new president. Julie Tinoco said she would also remain as Field Trip Chair unless someone else would like the appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm after Heidi motioned and Kay 2nd.

Respectfully Submitted by Heidi Webber, substituting for Dianne Wohlleben

Birthdays

January

Larry Holt
Debra Martin
Larry Patrich
Martin Schreiner
Robin Shane
Bruce Velie
Austin Williams

February

Brigitte Mazourek
Tina White



Officers:

President – Ron Rackliffe
Vice-President – Trina Aeen
Secretary: Dianne Wohlleben
Treasurer – Kay Denson
Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS) -- Evelyn Velie

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino
Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann
Equipment--Bill Webber
Field Trips – Julie Tinoco
Historian -Open
Hospitality – Tina White
Membership – Heidi Webber
On-Line Presence (website)-- Trina Aeen
Pelonagram Publisher, Editor – Heidi Webber
Programs – Evelyn Velie
Publicity – Bruce Velie
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 www.sierrapelona.com





Hi Everybody,

First off I want to extend a welcome to all the new members that have joined us in this last year, I treasure your interest and hope that we can help to fulfill what you would like to see in a Rock Club. Next, I want to thank all of you for your friendship and participation this last year in the club and a big thanks to all of you who helped out in the running of the club, from finances to equipment, from taking the minutes and supplying the Pelonagram and helping our membership to go to places they have never been and collect rocks they didn't have and throwing excellent parties, thank you so much for all your help in so many ways. I hope all of you plan on staying on with us and having another great year filled with new experiences and old friends.

Thanks, Ron R

Dues are Due!

Just another reminder that your 2018 dues are now due and will be considered past due as of February 6, 2018 (the date of the February board meeting). Reinstatement fees will apply after this date.

Your dues are very important to this club as we operate on a very narrow margin. They not only pay for club insurance through the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, they pay for our own insurance policies, equipment maintenance, hospitality supplies and other things that may occur throughout the year. Not a dime is wasted.

So please, if you haven't already paid your dues for 2018, drop your check into the mail to Kay Denson, whose address is on your club roster. You can also pay her at the January general meeting, but the sooner the better.

Heidi Webber
Membership Chair

November General Meeting Greenbrier Mobile Home Estates November 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Ron Rackliffe.

Following the flag salute, all were welcomed, and our guests introduced themselves: Peggy, Tim & Logan, Jess & Adam, and Jennifer.



The Board Minutes were reviewed; covering these topics:

- Our financial state
- Tonight's meeting
- The 12/2 field trip (samples of what would be found were on the Display Table)
- Future field trips
- The report that the 11/18 workshop saw 9 attendees, enjoying the fruits of Bill's hard work with the equipment and Heidi's talents in the kitchen
- The next scheduled Wire Wrap event has been cancelled
- The election for Board Officers will be held in December
- The club's Holiday Party is set for 12/9 at 11:a.m. here at Greenbrier
- Camp Zzyzx; the flyer was shared for those interested

Evelyn Velie asked that everyone please sign up for the Holiday Party potluck on the sheet by the door.

Most of our new members were unable to attend (2 were traveling, 2 live in Pahrump), but we welcomed Shana with her club materials and slab o' Howlite. Welcome, Shana!

Ron Lawrence pointed out that the Barstow Show is scheduled for Dec. 1 & 2.

Treasurer Kay Denison asked that we pay our 2018 dues as soon as possible. They will be considered late if not received before the February board meeting, preferably at or before our January General Meeting.

Also, a reminder that SPRC hats and t-shirts are available for only \$7 each. They make great holiday gifts!

Board elections will be held at the SPRC Holiday Party; anyone interested in running for office may contact a board member, or speak up at that event.

Our presentation for the evening was given by Dianne Wohlleben, who shared with us techniques for setting stones in pre-manufactured settings.

The usual raffle for cool rocks 'n stuff, and auction of larger rocks and slabs, took place after Dianne's presentation, allowing for mingling and munching.

The meeting was not officially adjourned, but ended at a bit before 8:45 p.m.

Somewhat Respectfully Submitted by Tina White substituting for Dianne Wohlleben



Benitoite

Since the club is making plans to visit this site near Coalinga at some point in the next year, I thought a little information would be appropriate.

Benitoite is a rare gemstone, and for all practical purposes only comes from a single limited deposit in California. It is a relatively new gemstone, and was first discovered in 1907. Benitoite gemstones have a sapphire-blue color, and can have very good transparency and luster. Due to its rarity and lack of availability, Benitoite can be extremely expensive per carat.

Benitoite was first discovered in 1907 at the Dallas Gem Mine in California., and upon its initial discovery was thought to be Sapphire. Dr. George Louderback was the first person to identify it as a completely different and new mineral in 1907. He named it

“Benitoite” as it was found in San Benito County in California, near the headwaters of San Benito River. This region is the only source of Benitoite, aside from some very sporadic and extremely limited occurrences worldwide

The crystal structure of Benitoite is unique, and is the only significant mineral in its crystal class. It crystallizes in a rare hexagonal subclass called ditrigonal-dipyramidal.

Most Benitoite crystals were originally deeply embedded in thick Natrolite; specimens are prepared for collectors by dissolving the surrounding Natrolite in acid to expose the Benitoite crystals. The blue Benitoite on a white Natrolite matrix and usual association with black Neptunite makes a very aesthetic mineral specimen.

Benitoite Properties

Here are some of the basic properties of this mineral:

Appearance: The crystals of this mineral have a transparent or translucent appearance.

Color: This mineral is usually blue in color; however, colorless crystals of this mineral can also be found.

Crystal Habits: It has tabular dipyramidal crystals.

Crystal System: It has a hexagonal crystal system.

Fracture: The crystals of Benitoite have conchoidal fractures.

Hardness: The hardness of this mineral ranges between 6 and 6.5 on Mohs scale.

Luster: These crystals have vitreous luster.

Solubility: It is insoluble in Hydrochloric acid (HCl) and Sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) but soluble in Hydrofluoric acid (HF).

Benitoite Mining

It is an extremely rare mineral found in very few locations such as the San Benito County in California, Japan and Arkansas. In San Benito, this mineral occurs in many natrolite veins in glaucophane schist within serpentinite bodies. In Japan it is found in magnesio-riebeckite- quartz- phlogopite- albite dikes that cut a serpentinite body. The gemstone quality Benitoite is only found in California.

Benitoite Associate Minerals

This mineral usually occurs along with different types of minerals. These minerals compose the host rock for Benitoite. Its associate minerals include:

- Natrolite
- Neptunite
- Joaquinite
- Serpentine
- Albite

Benitoite Uses

Benitoite is used for some different purposes; however, its rarity limits these uses.

- This beautiful mineral is used as a gemstone for making jewelry.
- Another important use of Benitoite is as a mineral specimen. The unique crystals of this mineral are highly valuable as collectible specimens.
- It is also used as a minor barium and titanium ore.

Benitoite Jewelry

The hardness of this mineral makes it quite useful as a gemstone. However, its rarity makes it quite an expensive gem. Rings, earrings, pendants and bracelets made using Benitoite gems are very popular. The fact that it resembles the finest sapphires in appearance makes it more appropriate for making jewelry.

Benitoite Availability

One can buy this gemstone in jewelry shops as well as online. There are many companies offering Benitoite jewelries and gemstones online at proper prices. It is also available in its rough mineral form. The prices vary according to the quality and purity of the product. Benitoite is highly valued for its beautiful crystalline appearance. Its uses as an ore for some other materials are limited due to its rarity. However, the fact that gem-quality is only found in California makes it even more valuable and precious as a gemstone and mineral specimen.



Holiday Party and Membership Meeting December 9, 2017



Our annual Holiday Party was a great success! Catered by all of us but with a special thanks to Heidi for cooking the turkey and a ham, (Oh, that gravy was really special)! Thank you to Tina White for her help in coordinating the party.

We raffled off the 8 beautiful centerpieces that were designed and made by Sarita Hyde. Thank you. Our silent auction was held with some beautiful end-of-the year pieces!

The annual fun bingo game was hosted by Ron Lawrence. Special rock pieces were given as prizes.

After the delicious lunch, the last meeting of the year was called to order by our President Ron Rackliffe at 1:15pm. Elections were held and the outcome is as follows:

Board:

President: Ron Rackliffe

Vice President: Bill Webber

Secretary: Shana Brunes-Ruiz

Treasurer: Kay Denson

Federation Director (CFMS/AFMS): Evelyn Velie

Chairpersons:

Claim--Mike Serino

Donation Rock Table--Ron and Akiko Strathmann

Equipment--Bill Webber

Field Trips – Julie Tinoco

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Programs –Tina White

Publicity –Bruce Velie

Sunshine--Brigitte Mazourek

Congratulations to all! Thanks go to all of you for your dedication to the club.

A special thank you goes to Trina Aeen for her past years of service. We also want to thank Omid and Trina for their monthly contribution in organizing the silent auction and their donations to it (specimen rock slabs).

While we are giving out thanks and appreciation, Ron and Akiko Strathmann have run the monthly raffle table flawlessly for many years. A huge thanks goes out to them for their hard work.

Our annual dues are due and payable by February at the business meeting. Our first business meeting will be on January 2nd, 2018 and the general meeting on January 20th.

We will see you in 2018. Happy New Year; may your holidays be fun and safe!

Your Secretary for 2017

Dianne Wohlleben